



2022-23

Annual Report





Toy Libraries



AUSTRALIA

Vision

All communities can access a quality toy library

Purpose

To support a growing community of Australian not-for-profit toy libraries, encouraging families to play and learn together in a sustainable way



A toy library enables families to borrow a large variety of educational toys, games, and puzzles in a process similar to that of a book library. These toys suit children from birth to primary school and beyond.

Toy Libraries Australia's members have a specific focus on promoting the educational value of play for younger children, encouraging positive adult/child interactions through play, and creating strong community connections in a setting that encourages the sustainable use of resources.

There are 380 toy libraries across Australia, with over 130,000 people using a toy library each year. Our member toy libraries operate in a variety of formats and settings, but most are community organisations run primarily by volunteers.

Toy libraries are generally operationally self-funding through membership fees, fundraising and corporate sponsorships; although limited grants from philanthropic sources and local government funding enable toy libraries to extend their toy collections.

Toy Libraries
AUSTRALIA



What is a toy library?

Benefits of toy libraries



Play-based learning
Parents as first educators
Families playing together
Building community
Soft entry point
Advice and supports
Consistency of connection
Inclusion and equality
Enhanced home-learning environment

Sharing of toys
Toy donations
Toy repair and reuse of parts
Durable toys with greater lifetime play value
Circular and sustainable consumption

Inexpensive access to toys
Reduced cost of living pressures
Large volunteer base
Pathways to work
High return on investment for funders



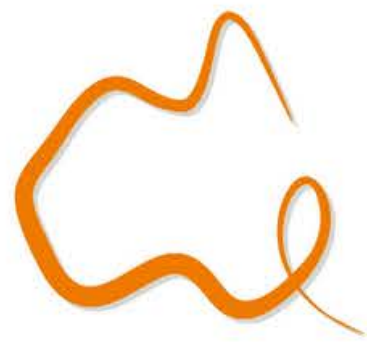
16th International Toy Library Conference

Community at play

Melbourne, Australia
3 - 7 March 2023



150 delegates • 13 countries • 5 days of play and learning



16th International Toy Library Conference

Community at play

3-7 March 2023 Melbourne, Australia

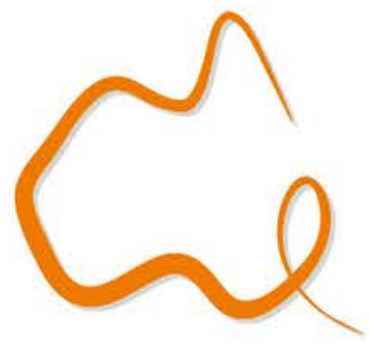


The International Toy Library Association in collaboration with toy libraries around the world have been organizing international conferences since 1978. Australia last hosted the conference in 1993.

The theme for the conference was *Community at play* with sub themes of

- your toy library community
- development through play
- toy libraries in the community
- environmental sustainable toy libraries

150 delegates and speakers from all continents attended the conference, which included an opening ceremony, two days of speakers and workshops, a day of excursions and a visit to the Melbourne Toy Fair.



16th International Toy Library Conference

Community at play

3-7 March 2023 Melbourne, Australia

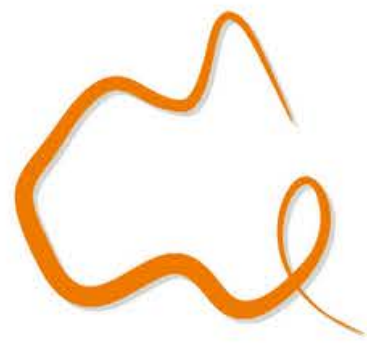
A highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Robyn Monro Miller, the President of the International Play Association. Her presentation entitled 'What can you achieve in 30 minutes?' highlighted the importance of play. She discussed the overall benefits of play, not only for children but for all ages.

Prof Karen Stagnitti's presentation on pretend play opened our eyes to the learning and development happening when children play.

A wonderful panel discussion moderated by Erin Rhoads (The Rogue Ginger) shared work from around the world in encouraging more sustainable toys. The circular economy projects established by toy libraries in Malaysia and Taiwan were very impressive.

Thank you to all our speakers and presenters.





16th International Toy Library Conference

Community at play

3-7 March 2023 Melbourne, Australia



During the conference, 100 delegates boarded buses and visited toy libraries, playspaces and other early years venues.

A big thank-you to the 14 toy libraries across Melbourne and Geelong who hosted delegates.



In the evenings delegates enjoyed social events including dinner and the Australian Toy Library Awards presentation, barefoot bowls and a walking tour of Melbourne.

The conference also coincided with the Melbourne Toy Fair. It was the first physical toy fair held in 3 years.

4.5 million people heard about toy libraries in the media in one week!

Toy Libraries Australia ran a media campaign with the International Conference with amazing reach

TV

1.1 million

reach of Sunrise segment with Kirsten from Little Buddies Toy Library

RADIO

10 minute

interview with Toy Libraries Australia's Louise Bell on radio 6PR in Perth

NEWSPAPER

Herald Sun

article in Victoria discussing the growth of toy libraries and cost of living

NEWS

200+

stories featuring Kiara Jones from Geraldton Toy Library on radio news bulletins cross the nation.



Toy Libraries Australia will continue to use targeted campaigns to generate free media that enhances awareness of toy libraries



New funding for toy libraries

Toy Libraries Australia's advocacy with government has resulted in a significant funding for toy libraries from 2023.

\$780,000 over 4 years

Commonwealth

- \$530,000 to Toy Libraries Australia to build the capacity of existing toy libraries and support the establishment of new toy libraries
- \$140,000 of open grants to toy libraries to obtain new toy and resources, open new toy libraries and support diversity and inclusion initiatives
- \$110,000 of election commitments to specified toy libraries

\$1,900,000 over 4 years

Victoria

- Create 8 new toy libraries
- Support existing toy libraries with grants of up to \$10,000



Diverse communities have diverse toy libraries who have diverse needs - in 2022/3 we offered diverse training & support opportunities



Face to face training days

In Western Australia we held a training day in August, a bus tour in March, and tour and talks throughout the year.

To see everything other toy libraries are doing was hugely beneficial

I loved talking to all the lovely passionate people and hearing their journeys

The feeling of support has been great - whenever a question has been asked there is always a wealth of knowledge to glean

Building a national toy library community

National & state based Facebook groups continue to provide inspiration & support regardless of remoteness or level of knowledge. The toy library community continues to support each other.

Training schedule is developed based on expressed needs, and feedback from previous training to guide our work.



Member support

Our Office Manager provides universal information, while Member Development Officers provide 1:1 support for individual toy library needs.

I have been very happy with the level of support and the professionalism of TLA

The sessions are great! I could hear real life examples that I could understand and relate to and bring into my own toy library.

Interactive online sessions.

Bite sized Learning: 30 minutes of presentation, 30 minute discussion. Recorded for access at any time.





Toy Well establishes a small free toy lending service in school-based community hubs, with a particular focus on migrants, refugees and families experiencing hardship.

Current Toy Well sites

- Northern Bay (Geelong)
- Dallas Brooks (Hume)
- St Dominic's (Hume)
- Dandenong
- Doveton (Dandenong)
- Holy Family (Dandenong)
- Truganina South (Wyndham)
- Davis Creek (Wyndham)

Toy Well sites opening 2023

- Point Cook College (Wyndham)
- Broadmeadows Valley (Hume)
- Sunbury Heights (Hume)
- Inala State School (Brisbane)
- 2 x Adelaide Hubs



Award finalist

www.vic.gov.au/victorian-early-years-awards
#VEYA2022



Toy Well was selected as a finalist in the 2022 Victorian Early Years Awards. The awards celebrate 'the exceptional contributions that early childhood professionals make to improving outcomes of children and their families'.



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Toy Well

16th International Toy Library Conference

3-7 March 2023 | Melbourne, Australia



President's Award

Adelle Suiter (Brisbane South Toy Library, Qld)

Lifetime Service Award

Colleen Thredgold (Elsie Ey Toy Library, SA)

Micro Toy Library of the Year

Sunny Corner Toy Library (NSW)

Medium Toy Library of the Year

Gove Toy Library (NT)

Large Toy Library of the Year

Ooranga Family Mobile Resource Unit (NSW)

Toy Library Excellence Community at Play

Burnside Toy Library (SA)

Toy Librarian (paid) of the Year

Heather Wright (Burnside Toy Library, SA)

Committee Member of the Year

Jess Widdicombe (Bendigo Community Toy Library, Vic)

Community Volunteer of the Year

Bill Jewell (Stonnington Toy Library, Vic)

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2023 award winners

Committee of Management

President

Catherine Zoppolato

Vice President

Natalie Gilbertson

Secretary

Helen Gunther

Treasurer

Ritu Gupta

Adelle Suitor

Claire Kingdon

Heather Wright

Kerry Dominish

Kiara Jones

Renae Barker

Staff

Chief Executive Officer

Debbie Williams

Toy Well National Manager

Diane Bish

Administration Officer

Helen Nicholson

National Development Manager

Louise Bell

Queensland Development Officer (from March 2023)

Adelle Suitor



INCOME STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2021	2022
	\$	\$
Income		
Membership Fees	23,104	27,038
Insurance Income	69,537	77,337
Grants	85,355	141,164
Toy sales	72,279	39,073
Other Income	21,798	1,830
Total Income	272,073	286,442
Expenses		
Accounting and banking	(3,198)	(4,502)
Bad Debts	(890)	(204)
Insurance	(70,576)	(73,919)
Other	(4,959)	(3,025)
Payroll	(87,312)	(140,658)
Toy purchases	(62,497)	(39,076)
Toy Well non-staff costs	(34,871)	(21,219)
Training and conferences	(1,840)	(4,325)
Travel and accommodation	(2,538)	(6,478)
Total Expenses	(268,679)	(293,406)
Operating surplus/(deficit)	3,393	(6,964)
Interest income	299	463
Surplus/(Deficit)	3,692	(6,502)

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2022

	2021	2022
	\$	\$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	166,664	177,525
Trade debtors	(782)	3,322
Interest earned	60	-
Pre-paid expenses	-	9,213
Pre-paid grant disbursements	9,503	3,656
TOTAL ASSETS	175,445	193,716
Current Liabilities		
Trade creditors	(200)	(3,000)
Pre-paid grants	(80,000)	(106,699)
GST payable	(282)	2,374
Payroll Liabilities	(8,380)	(5,687)
Other liabilities	(11)	(634)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(88,872)	(113,646)
NET ASSETS	86,572	80,071
Equity		
Current Period Earning	3,692	(6,502)
Retained Earnings	82,880	86,572
TOTAL EQUITY	86,572	80,071



Toy Libraries Australia - encouraging families to play and learn together in a sustainable way



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Contact us: info@toylibraries.org.au