Monte Library
2017 annual report

- Number of loans of 'recreational reading' titles, across print, ebooks and audiobooks: A 22.7% increase from 2016.

- Number of Monte students who borrowed an item from the Library in 2017: 84% of the student body.

- Number of full-text document downloads from Monte's subscription research databases in 2017.

Deborah Brown, Manager, Library and Information Science
STRATEGIC GOAL 1: 
OUR CATHOLIC & MERCY IDENTITY

DONATION OF BOOKS

In 2017 we established a relationship with two organisations to accept donations of novels culled from the Monte Library’s collections. Mary’s House, a refuge in North Sydney for women and children escaping domestic violence maintains a library for guests, and we were pleased to donate several dozen books to them.

The Uniting Edinglassie aged care facility in Emu Plains was also happy to accept a donation of books that had been weeded from our collection according to our collection development policy.

ABOVE: Resident with donated books at Uniting Edinglassie Aged Care Service

SUSTAINABILITY

In term 2 Natalie initiated plastic recycling in the college, advertising the fact that dedicated bins for plastics would be available in the Library and in iAssist. This initiative was subsequently embraced elsewhere in the college, with orders for 6 more plastics recycling bins from other departments.
Creating a culture of reading

Our loans stats from the catalogue give us a snapshot of the reading culture at Monte.

Increase in number of PRINT fiction loans from 2016 to 2017

The total number of print fiction loans in 2017 was 6972. This is a significant increase on our 2016 loans statistics. We partially attribute to enthusiastic borrowing and reading amongst Year 7 & 8 students, but also to the positive culture of reading being fostered by the College.

PRINT FICTION LOANS 2013-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>6105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL FICTION LOANS IN 2017 ACROSS ALL FORMATS

11,435

The total number of fiction loans for 2017, including print, ebooks and audiobooks. This represents a 22.7% increase on total fiction loans across all formats in 2016.

Our digital reading collections currently consist of 2476 ebooks and 693 audiobooks, free to borrow every day of the year through the eplatform and Borrowbox apps.
The top 10 middle school library users borrowed a total of 806 books between them during 2017. They are all Year 7 and Year 8 students, and, perhaps predictably, they are all active participants in the Ladies & Literature book club.

979 Monte students borrowed an item from the Library during 2017. That is 84% of the total student body, and highlights the wide reach that the Library has in terms of interacting with students and making them feel welcome.

Top 10 titles
1. Lion: A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley
2. The Fault in our Stars by John Green
3. Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon
4. Jasper Jones by Craig Silvey
5. The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness
6. Wonder by R. J. Palacio
7. Soul Surfer by Bethany Hamilton
8. A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas
9. Wilder Country by Mark Smith
10. Turtles All the Way Down by John Green

While Years 7 & 8 are always the biggest library borrowers, this graph highlights vividly why our loans stats were so high in 2017: the Year 7 & 8 cohorts are enthusiastic readers and library users.
# Marketing reading to our students

## Strategies that worked in 2017

Student voice, student choice and a number of low-tech and high-tech solutions were used each year to create a culture of reading. Our print and ebook loan statistics indicate that a vibrant culture of reading exists at Monte.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Busting to Read</strong></td>
<td>Book blurbs were distributed on girls’ toilet doors. Anecdotal feedback indicated that these often resulted in the loan of the book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Book of the Week</strong></td>
<td>A strategically featured book was promoted every week and was nearly always borrowed by a student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Book talk in Wide Reading class</strong></td>
<td>Librarians and English staff bookended classes with discussions and publicity about great reads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multiple copies</strong></td>
<td>When a book or author developed a ‘buzz’, the Library purchased multiple copies to feed the enthusiasm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student suggestions</strong></td>
<td>Student input into purchasing ebooks is done with a single-click ‘wishlist’ suggestion box on our online platforms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student voice &amp; choice</strong></td>
<td>The Ladies &amp; Literature club were given carte blanche to choose books for the collection from The Children’s Bookshop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Getting parents on board</strong></td>
<td>Emails to parents with suggested recreational reading lists for specific year groups were very positively received.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018 we will expand these strategies to make use of new reading-list curation tools in our upgraded Destiny library catalogue. We will also be specifically targeting reluctant readers by sourcing engaging books for those who consider themselves ‘non-readers’.
Launched in Term 1, 2017

We started the year with a new-look library: legacy 1980s-era shelving was removed during the 2016-17 Christmas break, all walls were plastered and painted and replacement white, steel shelving from Raeco was installed.

The end result of this was a lighter, brighter, more inviting space for students to learn and read in, with more face-out display space for books, which we feel has contributed to an increase in loans to students, and a greater showcasing of our heritage architecture.

The Library lounge area also underwent a transformation in 2017: new couches and the removal of legacy shelving increased the seating area for students booked in for research classes and wide reading classes.
ENGAGING WITH PARENTS
A Library initiative in 2017 aimed to get parents involved with their daughter's reading

In Term 4, 2017 we had a goal to engage parents with their daughter's reading and encourage continued reading throughout the summer holidays. Parents of Year 7-10 students were informed by email that Monte's ebooks and audiobooks were available for loan every day of the year, from anywhere, and were also sent a list of literary-related 'stocking-fillers' for Christmas. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

"Thanks very much for this email and the links. It is a great initiative. I will be suggesting some these to our daughter, Claudia" YEAR 10 PARENT

"Thank you so much for this list my daughter Molly White Year 8 is a “Reluctant reader” but I think I’ve found some books that will spark her interest." YEAR 8 PARENT

"Thanks very much for sending this email. Eloise is an avid reader and we had been looking for some new book ideas for her Christmas list so your email was perfectly timed and much appreciated!" YEAR 8 PARENT

"My daughter is new to the school and whilst I know that you don't expect a response to this email, I just wanted to say a huge thankyou - this is a fabulous initiative. I am so surprised and appreciative of the effort that you have gone to for the girls and it will certainly make my job easier for motivating holiday reading!" YEAR 10 PARENT

Thank you so much for this fantastic list of suggested and suitable books for Year 8 students! It is exactly what I've been trying to find, and has saved me a huge amount of time trying to find book reviews etc. YEAR 8 PARENT

Great ebook reads for Years 7 & 8
Stocking fillers for Years 7 & 8
'Page-turning' ebook reads for Years 9 & 10
Stocking up on books at Christmas: recommended reading for Years 9 to 10
During the past five years the Library has been open for Year 12 students during the spring break to provide them with a quiet, non-distracting place to study. In 2017, following Allyson’s suggestion, these extended holiday hours were expanded to include week one of both the Autumn and Winter breaks, and to include Year 11 students as well. Attendance numbers show that it is definitely worthwhile.

Study skills
CJ ran a series of workshops for seniors after school in exam prep, notetaking etc. This will be offered again in 2018.

Pit Stop
In term 1, following a needs-analysis by Gel Hannan, Pit Stop (Study Centre) was expanded from three afternoons per week to an additional three mornings per week. While demand from students is variable, it does expand the availability of learning support available to our students.

ELEVATE pop-up
We collaborated Year 11 Geography to come up with the Read, Think, Wonder, Share activity. This involved creating a customised portal to 6 specific journal titles in our databases to enable targeted students to extend their knowledge in an area of their interest.
MEMORIES OF THE STRUGGLE

Natalie traveled to launch the 'Memories of the Struggle: Australians Against Apartheid' exhibition at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. The Monte scholarship fund made a contribution towards her travel, and she has shared her first-hand experiences with senior history students.

STAFF ATTAINMENT

IB WORKSHOP: EXTENDED ESSAY CHANGES

DEBORAH ATTENDED IN MELBOURNE, FOLLOWED UP BY MANAGEBAC WEBINAR AND ONLINE INFOGRAPHICS COURSE (ALIA & TAFE NSW)

AVEA (Audio-Visual Educators Association)
Meeting hosted by Natalie at Monte in September

AIS TEACHER LIBRARIAN SYMPOSIUM IN MAY
DEBORAH & CATHIE-JANE

MYP: ENGLISH ATTENDED BY CJ

IEU (Independent Educators Union):
'Belonging' workshop
Creating a culture of belonging in your work and in your school: attended by Norma

MONTE DECEMBER LEARNING FAIR
Natalie presentation to staff on CoolAustralia.org
The Library collaborated with the faculties to run researching and referencing sessions for a range of subjects and year groups, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>HISTORY:</strong> Ancient Egypt, Ancient China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>GEOGRAPHY:</strong> Liveability of Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RELIGION:</strong> Catherine McCauley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SCIENCE:</strong> Life on Mars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>SCIENCE:</strong> Sustainable Development Goals (presentation to entire cohort)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Religion:</strong> Sacraments of healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Personal Project workshops</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HISTORY:</strong> Representations of the Holocaust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>COMMERCE:</strong> Workplace penalties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>HISTORY:</strong> Footnoting; US civil rights in the 1950s and 60s; Ancient human remains; Historical investigation; Individual Research Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>GEOGRAPHY:</strong> Senior Geography Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HSC English:</strong> Related texts for Distinctive Voices, Breaking Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>IB Lang &amp; Lit:</strong> texts for Language &amp; Cultural context (written task 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CAFS:</strong> IRP - Research and Literature review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Extended Essay</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HSC ENGLISH - Representing people &amp; landscapes; Discovery</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BIOLOGY:</strong> Major research project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HISTORY:</strong> Major research project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>BIOLOGY:</strong> Major research project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>HISTORY:</strong> Major research project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15 subscription databases are available through the Monte Library website and through direct links on MonteConnect course pages. Students are introduced to them in Year 7 both in Library information literacy classes, and in task-specific sessions during subjects such as science, history and geography. Sessions in advanced research skills for Monte staff are run as part of new-staff orientation sessions and as part of the staff learning conference program.

Usage

Full-text downloads from subscription databases, 2015-2017

- 2015: 19,940
- 2016: 20,276
- 2017: 23,408

Most popular databases

1. Academic Search Premier
2. Australia/New Zealand Reference Centre
3. Literary Reference Centre
4. History Reference Centre
5. Australian Points of View

The increase in database usage at Monte in some ways is expected, given the decline in (but not death of) the use of print non-fiction sources. However, it is great to see that students are seeking out authoritative, academic sources through our databases, and are using research techniques that go beyond simply 'Googling it'.

We continue to partner with 4 universities in Sydney to provide our students with access to specialist research sources when needed.
2017 LIBRARY EVENTS

PRESENTATION BY MARKUS ZUSAK TO STUDENTS & PARENTS
Cathie-Jane scored a coup for Monte when she was able to secure Markus Zusak, award winning author of The Book Thief, to address students and parents in the ACC in November. This event was particularly good timing for Year 8 extension English students who had studied the text, and also for Year 11 extension English students with whom he conducted an intensive workshop following the presentation.

WABIAD
95 students from Years 7 to 11 participated in our annual literary marathon, Write a Book in a Day. Ten teams each produced a 4000 word book for a national competition which supports children suffering from cancer.

HUMAN LIBRARY
123 students participated in our 2017 Human Library event. Ten ‘living library books’ generously donated their time to combat stereotyping and stigmatisation through the simple act of a conversation.

JANE AUSTEN
To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of Jane Austen, English and Library staff held a high-tea and trivia afternoon in the Library with the Year 11 students who were studying Austen’s novel, Emma.
Cathie-Jane established the Ladies and Literature Club in 2017, to foster a buzz around books, and to create connections between students from different year levels with a shared interest in reading.

SKYPING WITH ALICE PUNG
In August CJ organised a Skype session with award-winning Australian author Alice Pung. Alice generously discussed her writing process with our club members, and the family and cultural influences that have shaped her popular books.

BIBLIO BATTLE
At a meeting in June five students pitched a ‘great read’ to an audience of club members, who then voted on the book they would most like to read. This was a great way of getting sometimes quieter students to stand up and talk about something they felt passionate about.

STUDENT VOICE, STUDENT CHOICE
Paul McDonald, owner of The Children’s Bookshop in Beecroft, attended two meetings of the L&L club. He brought with him dozens of new releases to discuss with our students. The girls were then given the opportunity to select which books would be purchased for the Monte Library. This gives the students genuine agency in their own literacy and learning, and a sense of stewardship over school resources. We love getting their input into purchasing decisions, and we could see how much they loved it.
Languages Week, initiated by the Languages faculty and hosted in the library, was a week long celebration of all things French, Indonesian, Italian, German and Spanish. It was a wonderful opportunity to both promote second-language acquisition and to publicise the library’s collection of international fiction.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- The green-screen photo booth, run by the IT department
- International foods served to students in the library each day
- Showcase of international (second language) fiction
- Spanish pinata
- Simpson's episodes in foreign languages screened in the library lounge

“To have another language is to gain a second soul”
Charlemagne
DISPLAYS are linked to student interests, events and festivals, units of work, assessment tasks, texts that are being studied, anniversaries and seasons.
Curriculum mapping
A priority for 2018 is to create a cross-faculty curriculum map for Years 7 to 12. This will give us an overview of what is being taught when and to whom. We'll construct this map by drilling down into MonteConnect to find assessment notifications, accessing Scope and Sequence documents and meeting with HODS and program leaders. This map will enable us to:

- Ensure the library collection has appropriate resources to support teaching of specific units, and to publicise these resources
- Enable the library to create displays linked to topic areas
- Enable forward planning of research sessions to support assessment tasks
- Find opportunities to display student work in the library
- See where connections exist between topic areas in different subjects

Looking towards 2018
The growth-oriented review of library operations that will be undertaken in 2018 will be an opportunity for blue-sky thinking. Other plans for the coming year include building on the success we have had with engaging parents in their daughters' reading, and undertaking the following:

New Destiny catalogue interface
Following an upgrade to version 15.0 of Destiny (Dec 2017), we will be introducing a new interface to the school: Destiny Discover. This cleaner interface offers more intuitive searching and access to resources.

Better information dissemination
In 2017 two online tools proved valuable and cost-effective: List.ly was used to create student reading lists that were sent to parents, and the infographics tool, Venngage, on which this report is being created, provides a quick way to design and produce information artefacts. In 2018 library staff will be trained in using these tools.

Desk configuration
In order to provide increased access for students to library staff, we’ll look at reconfiguring Deborah’s desk to accommodate two staff members. This will better enable ad-hoc requests for assistance (the most common kind of requests) to be dealt with at the point-of-need.
2016-2017

37 students successfully completed their extended essay in 2017. The results were:
A grades - 14 essay
B grades - 10 essays
C grade - 13 essays
This included one essay which received a perfect score of 36 (Kate McNamara, supervised by Sharon Ross)

2017-2018

In 2017 we successfully transitioned the new cohort of 39 Diploma students to using Managebac for the EE process. All learning materials, including a suite of video artefacts linked from the MonteConnect course page, were updated to reflect the significant changes to the EE this year.

SUPERVISORS

26 supervisors undertook in-house training in 2017 which involved familiarisation with the new iteration of the EE, including the new criteria and mandatory reflection element. Additionally, staff quickly adapted to using Managebac for EE administration.

2018-2019

With a record cohort of 65 students undertaking the Diploma in 2018, finding EE supervisors for each student will be the big challenge of the year.
You'll find me in the library

By Clare Cameron, Year 8

As I walk through these shelves, they call to me, begging to be listened to. They dress themselves up and use pretty words to call to me, and when they ensnare me, they take me on a journey. They change my name. Where I am. Who I am. They give me joys. They give me tragedies. I find love. And lose love. I go through anxiety after anxiety. Excitement after excitement. And when they release me, I am me again. Then another ensnares me, and it starts all over. But you see, I let them. I want them to drag me in. I look for them. The ones that are like jewels. and the ones that don't quite shine so bright. I look for them because I need them. I am like them. I am them.

I have winding pages. Full of words, of stories. I draw people in with a beautiful cover, and fancy words. And once they open me and take a look inside. I am so much more. I can make people cry, and laugh. Take their hand and show them new feeling and experiences.

But still. There are blank pages in me. Pages that I fill as fast as I can. But my sole experiences aren't enough. That's why I'm here. Amongst the towering shelves. Taking in the old, musty smell of pages. That's why I sit in this corner. Curled up with the sun looking over me.

So remember, if you can't find me. Don't fret, You'll find me here. Where I have lived a thousand lives. Where I have laughed, and cried.

Yes, You'll find me in the library.

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