

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 DECEMBER 2023

RETREAT FROM THE HEAT AT YOUR LIBRARY

With Australian summer temperatures forecasted to be in high 30s and into the 40s, our local libraries are a place to escape the heat and keep hydrated.

CGRC libraries in Cootamundra and Gundagai are now designated Heat Retreats, where all residents can cool off in air-conditioned comfort during business hours throughout the summer. With free bottled water, books and newspapers, free Wi-Fi, and toys, games and holiday programs for the kids, local libraries will play a more crucial role than ever this year in what is likely to be the hottest summer on record.

Hot weather can affect everyone, however those at greater risk include older people, people with existing medical conditions, babies and young children, outdoor workers, socially isolated people, people who are homeless and pregnant women. Not everybody has the luxury of air-conditioning in their home. The cost of living means most households are cutting back on power use, making houses hotter and fridges emptier. Not only can this make the summer days long and unpleasant, but dehydration and high ambient temperatures can cause life-threatening conditions such as heat stroke.

This summer, your libraries are so much more than just books. They are a place to cool down and relax, to meet new people, and engage in cultural, recreational, social activities, including clubs, creative arts, science and tech, and children's programs, all in air-conditioned comfort. So as the mercury rises, beat a retreat to your library, where admission is, and always will be, free. It's the coolest place in town.

To find out more, contact your local branch on Gundagai (ph. 69 440 270) or Cootamundra (ph. 69 40 22 00).

Picture & Caption

CGRC libraries in Cootamundra and Gundagai are designated Heat Retreat spaces. The libraries are currently undertaking a social media campaign encouraging residents to escape the heat, in air-conditioned comfort enjoy a friendly atmosphere, free bottled water and a host of activities.

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