

<b>Name of Library</b>	Rockhampton Regional Libraries	 <p><i>Morning Bulletin</i> 28 Jan 2011</p>
<b>Address</b>	230 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton	
<b>Phone</b>	(07) 4936 8295	
<b>Contact person</b>	Ann-Maree Dyer	
<b>Email</b>	cheryl.haughton@rrc.qld.gov.au	

<b>Title of project/innovation/initiative</b>	<b>Treasure Trovers</b>
<b>Date initiated</b>	October 2010
<b>Date completed</b>	Ongoing

### **The issue/challenge**

Rockhampton Regional Council has had a strong tradition of outreach linked to promotion of the library's special collections. These have included genealogy seminars, local history talks, cemetery tours and heritage photographic exhibitions.

The work on the refurbishment of the old Southside library to develop it as the new History Centre necessitated a reduced level of heritage service. To maintain links with community members interested in history and increase a potential volunteer base for future heritage projects, the Treasure Trovers project was initiated by the Heritage Collections officer in late 2010. Combining an ICT component as well as developing and maintaining a strong volunteer base, the project has attracted considerable interest from the target audience and increased the network potential for future heritage projects.

### **Project details**

The hugely successful launch of the National Library of Australia's TROVE portal has contributed to the ease of uptake and access to this nationally digitised newspaper content.

The introduction on TROVE in mid 2010 to the digitised content for *The Morning Bulletin*, Rockhampton's own local newspaper, generated a flurry of interest in local history circles. Tapping into this existing passion for local history proved timely, as many of the resources usually accessed in the library's special collections were effectively restricted during the redevelopment of the History Centre.

The Treasure Trovers project was born with the idea of combining technology with collecting, sharing and improving digital data, as well as recruiting a stable of Local History volunteers for future projects. A call for expressions of interest from community members to join the Trovers group resulted in a strong core of volunteers which initially met fortnightly for two hours at the Library. A bank of computers in one of our computer training labs on site at the Rockhampton Regional Library, proved ideal as the base for the Trovers allowing a relaxed setting for learning. Training was

offered in correcting OCR text on the site, as well as a supportive network to develop computer skills in a collaborative learning environment. The group also had the opportunity to meet the Library's Heritage Officer and receive notification of special events in the library calendar, as well as tapping into an informal forum for local history research and information. The initial meetings were quickly changed to weekly sessions due to the high amount of interest, with the morning 'cuppa' prior to the session a great drawcard for the committed group.

Even the floods in January failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the Trovers, with the group continuing to meet during the flood crisis.

The opening of the new History Centre in June 2011 has identified a further range of possible projects with the core group of volunteers on hand eager to contribute to increasing accessibility of the documentary heritage of the region.