



Reading aloud gives head start at school

One of the best ways to help young children be successful at school is to read aloud to them every day. This is the philosophy behind the "1000 Books Before School" program that is now being rolled out through Victorian libraries.

As Jim Kinniburgh, retired school principal and literacy consultant explains, "Reading aloud develops a child's vocabulary. Children hear words in context and then begin to use them themselves."

By way of example, Jim tells the story of his 6-year-old grandson who, while dining out with his family at a local restaurant, became frustrated at how long his food was taking to arrive. He thumped the table and exclaimed, "This is impossible. This is intolerable. This is insufferable." His parents were astounded at their son's sophisticated vocabulary but Jim, who was present at the time, wasn't particularly surprised. He had been reading "A Visitor for Bear" by Bonnie Becker to his grandson and one of the characters had used almost exactly the same words in a frustrating situation.

But the benefits of reading aloud to children go beyond expanding their vocabulary. "Reading aloud increases a child's attention span and listening comprehension," Jim says. "This, in turn, enhances the child's ability to hear sounds in words and helps with spelling and writing."



Jim Kinniburgh with some of his favourite children's books.

Jim says books with rhyme and rhythm are particularly helpful. He mentions books such as "Mr McGee" by Pamela Allen, "Hairy Maclary" by Lynley Dodd and "The Gruffalo" and "The Ugly Five" by Julia Donaldson as being good examples. Nursery rhymes also fit the bill.

Jim believes everyone who spends time with young children has a role to play in fostering a love of reading whether they be parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers or librarians.

"People who read to children provide an

important role model by demonstrating they enjoy reading. Children will want to do what they see their parents and grandparents doing."

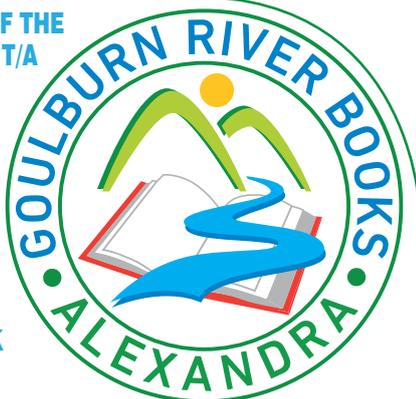
To take part in the "1000 Books Before School" program call in and register at the Alexandra Library. You'll get a Reading Record to record each book you read to a child and you will be eligible for special rewards as you reach various milestones. So, why not get started now and give the children in your care a lifelong love of books and a head start at school?

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DONATIONS WELCOME



99 Grant Street, Alexandra
alexandrabookshop@gmail.com

5772 2935
0407 722 755

“ Did you know? ” In 2016-17 the Murrindindi Library Service loaned 72,815 physical items and 293 ebooks. That's a lot of items that need to be returned to the shelves by our librarians

IT'S TIME!

To renew your Friends of the Library membership for 2018 – or become a new member.

For only \$5 a year you will be kept up-to-date with the latest events and will be supporting our wonderful library. Pick up a membership form today at the Alexandra Library.



BALMORAL CASTLE

To: The Storytime Children at Alexandra Library

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you all for the lovely pictures which you have drawn for Her Majesty's Official Birthday.

The Queen was delighted to receive your pictures and pleased to see the photographs of you all enjoying the party which was held to celebrate her Birthday.

Her Majesty thought it was very kind of you to take such trouble with your pictures and The Queen would like me to thank you so much for all your good wishes.

8th August, 2003

Lady-in-Waiting

Remember when ...?

A Letter From the Queen

It's not often an Australian library gets a letter from the Queen but, in 2003, that's exactly what happened to the Alexandra Library.

For many years, our library celebrated the Queen's Birthday with a party during Children's Storytime complete with party hats, a birthday cake and the singing of "Happy Birthday". In 2003, Sharron Batt, co-ordinator of the program, had the bright idea of getting the children to make and send a birthday card to the Queen. They also included photos of the birthday celebrations.

Imagine how surprised and thrilled Sharron and the children were when they received, in response, a thank you letter from the Queen. It was a well deserved reward for an imaginative program that delighted the young patrons of the library.



BOOK REVIEW

THE MONUMENTS MEN

Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History by Robert M. Edsel

In 1943, during World War II, General Eisenhower established The Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program. Its aim was to protect cultural property in war zones and to recover over five million artworks that had been stolen by the Nazis.

To try and summarise this 450-page book into its essentials is obviously difficult but I will start with some background.

The Nazis had one objective after world domination: to enrich themselves. They were equipped with inventories of the major artworks in Europe and, as soon as areas were captured, these precious objects were taken and transported to thousands of depositories throughout Germany.

The best of these items went to Hitler and then Goering. There are descriptions of how German soldiers would be sent in to pack and transport whole collections, often hastily and with little supervision. Thousands of trainloads of artefacts were involved.

Although the group known as the



"Monuments Men" was officially established, they had no transport or equipment. Initially there was only one "monuments man" to each army in the invasion force and they went into the front line with only their courage, presence and wits to sustain them.

There is chapter after chapter describing the courage, skill and doggedness of these men as they chase down lead after lead to recover these works and return them to their rightful locations. Helping them was a worker from the Louvre in Paris, Rose Valland who, while appearing to help the Nazis, was actually working as a spy for the French Resistance. She compiled data on where the trainloads of precious items were being taken and, after forming an association with a "monuments man" and finally trusting him, supplied this information to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives program.

In summary, this is an amazing read about an undercurrent of World War II, not well publicised, but highly important and successful.

By Maurie Pawsey

What's on



Tech Talk 1st Thursday each month 10am

Learn more about your smart phone or tablet, first Thursday of each month at 10am. Bring your charged device with your log-in and password and Library staff will help you to access Audio Books, Magazines, ebooks and much more. Alexandra Library 5772 0382



Flinders Street Station – Beyond the Facade

Jenny Davies

Come on a tour into the furthest reaches of the iconic Flinders Street station with Jenny. Awarded the City of Melbourne Award for Individual Contribution to the City's Profile, Jenny continues to apply pressure to have the government consider appropriate uses for the multitude of different spaces within, consistent with original intentions for the building. You'll be amazed at just what hides behind the fancy facade.

1pm-2pm Tuesday 17 April

HISTORY CAFE

Tuesday 29 May 2018 6pm-8pm

Learn about local history from David Hibbert and his team



**1st Tuesday of the month
6pm-7.30pm Alexandra Library**

Do you find yourself wondering what book to read next?

Looking for fresh ideas?

Then why not come along to "On the Couch". Our librarians will introduce you to loads of new books - and some DVDs - while you enjoy wine, nibbles, conversation and laughter.

Tuesday Show



Kedi – Movie night

John Fairfax

The renowned John Fairfax returns, taking us on a journey through the exotic, ever changing streets of Istanbul. Enjoy Turkish finger food and a glass of wine as John introduces the film with his well researched and informative insider perspective. We will then show the Turkish film Kedi.

6pm-9pm Tuesday 15 May

Bookings essential 5772 0382 limited seating

All Things Tiny House

Darren Hughes

Ever dreamed about building your own Tiny House? Darren, from Tiny Houses Australia will be here to tell us all about it.

- What to expect • How to do it • Why they are so important

Lots of great pictures to inspire, followed by a great supper and informal chat

7pm-8pm Tuesday 20 March



ALEXANDRA LIBRARY

49 Grant Street, Alexandra Vic 3714

P: (03) 5772 0382 E: mls@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Monday

2pm - 5pm

Wednesday

Closed

Friday

9.30am - 5pm

Tuesday

2pm-5pm

Thursday

9.30am - 5pm

Saturday

9.30am-12noon

6pm-8pm

To find out "What's On" go to www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au, look up Libraries and then Alexandra Library.

Friends of the Library Alexandra and District Inc

PO Box 390, Alexandra Vic 3714

E: proctor@virtual.net.au

President: Howard Paix

Vice-President: vacant

Secretary: Tim Proctor

Treasurer: Ann Barkla

Committee Members:

Gwenda Martin, Bob Scott,

Alan Smith, Ron Cooper,

Carol Hopkins, George Evans

Friends of the Library Alexandra and District

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6.30pm Tuesday 17 April 2018 at the Alexandra Library

ALL WELCOME



FOL funds new laptop for library

The Alexandra Library has recently purchased a state-of-the-art MacBook Pro laptop thanks to funding provided by the Friends of the Library.

The new laptop will make presentations by visiting speakers a breeze by allowing all devices, be they memory sticks, tablets, laptops or iPads, to connect seamlessly with either the overhead projector or the Apple TV.

In addition, special software will ensure all presentation programs, whether from Microsoft Word or Apple, will run smoothly. As a result, the time and frustration involved in getting diverse programs and devices to work will be a thing of the past. Skyping interviews with authors will also be less hassle.

“I would like to thank the Friends of the Library for their generous support”, said Sharron Batt, Coordinator, Alexandra Library. “It has made our life so much easier.”

FOL Christmas tree a winner

The Christmas tree created by Alexandra and District Friends of the Library was voted the winner of the annual Christmas Tree Festival held in the Shire Hall last December. It received 117 votes from the public ahead of Tyrepower in second place with 100 votes.

Featuring a stack of books artfully arranged in the shape of a pine tree, the creation was the brainchild of Ron Cooper, Manager of Goulburn River Books. He enlisted the support of Leanne Monro, a regular volunteer in the bookshop, to make his idea a reality and, over a couple of hours, she created the innovative “book tree”.

Congratulations to Ron and Leanne for their creativity and effort.

Pictured right: Leanne Monro with the Christmas Tree she created.



Walking the Kokoda Track

Charlie Bisset, Murrindindi Shire Mayor, drew a large crowd to the Alexandra Library in February for her talk on walking the Kokoda Track.

The trail has special significance for Charlie and her family as both her father, Stan Bisset, and uncle, “Butch” Bisset, fought the Japanese on the Kokoda Track during the second World War. Sadly, Butch died on the track from gunshot wounds to the stomach.

In her talk, Charlie highlighted the extreme hardships faced by the Australian soldiers while fighting on the track and the courage they displayed in the face of overwhelming odds.

Charlie then went on to describe some of the challenges faced by present day walkers of the 96km-long Kokoda Track, including heat, humidity, mud, rain, insects, river crossings and a climb to over 2,000 metres.

Charlie has walked the 8-day trail on two occasions so far and plans to go back again. Everyone in the audience came



Charlie Bisset shows the location of the Kokoda Track

away with renewed admiration for the Australian soldiers who endured and sacrificed so much to protect Australia and for Charlie and her fellow walkers who completed such a difficult trek.