



Library News 2010

January to February

Recent Happenings at Mona Vale Library

The Listening Group, a book discussion group for the visually impaired, started in October. The group meets each Friday morning between 10 and 12pm and listens to the chosen book being read by a professional reader. The book is then discussed chapter by chapter. Each session begins with a quick synopsis of the story so far. The group are currently reading *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*.

Reading Groups

The three library Reading Groups are now completing their third year and many of the original members remain keen participants. This year the groups have worked their way through prize winning fiction, African novels, Scandinavian crime and Chinese history. The schedule for 2010 includes American novels, Irish writers, food, female relationships and the Mitford sisters. If you would like to join the waiting lists for either the Monday morning, Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday evening groups please contact Jane Smith on 9970 1608 or email jane_smith@pittwater.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you Christmas party for Volunteers and Friends of Mona Vale Library was held on Thursday 3 December with drinks, refreshments and live entertainment from the Northern Beaches Chorus and a good time was enjoyed by all. Mayor, Councillor Harvey Rose is seen below giving his thanks to all the Volunteers and Friends for their assistance throughout the year.



Knitting

Pittwater Stitches: knitting for a cause have been meeting in the library each Friday morning for a few months. This group of highly motivated and dedicated knitters have so far completed 15 beautiful blankets for the Wrap with Love organisation. The group are happy to accept donated 10 inch knitted squares, spare wool or blankets requiring their trademark finishing touch - the crocheted edge! If you would like to help out or discuss their current projects, please visit the group in the Pelican Room Fridays 10am to 12pm.

Santa Storytime

Between 50 and 60 children attended Santa's two recent visits to the library. Once again Santa proved very popular with all, with the exception of one little soul who will remain nameless as she is related to a member of our staff!

Mona Vale Public School visit

Children from the Infants classes gave a Christmas performance of singing, drumming and bell ringing in early December, much to the delight of the audience present at the library that day.

Reading for Pleasure

A brochure is available at the service desk with helpful hints on how the library can help you find a 'good book' to read. There are also some helpful websites and databases, all to assist you. Any inquiries, please ask the staff at the service desk.

Helping Learner Drivers Become Safe Drivers Workshops

These workshops are organised by Council's Road Safety Officer and held in the library, usually every few months. The workshop in November was well attended. If you want more info visit- http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/local_services/road_safety/helping_learner_

Forthcoming Events

Summer Activities

The Summer Read, Rate & Raffle

A reading activity for all ages commenced in mid December. When you return your books to the library you will be invited to complete a simple form called the Read Rater where you score your enjoyment of the book(s) from 1 to 5. All completed forms will be entered into a weekly prize draw which will be drawn every Thursday. There are fantastic prizes and separate draws for adults and children. The first two winners in the adult's draw, Helen Edwards who read 'To Heaven by Water' by Justin Cartwright and in the children's draw, Isabella Howard who read 'Forest of Silence' by Emily Rodda. Both winners rated their respective books as an excellent read.

Remember to take a Read Rater form from the desk, for an opportunity to win a prize. This raffle runs until Thursday 4 February, 2010.

Draw your House and be part of the NSW Heritage Festival

The NSW Heritage Festival's theme for 2010 is 'The Making of Our Nation'.

To celebrate, Mona Vale Library is inviting all primary school aged children to draw their house. These drawings will be kept in the library's Local Studies section so we can preserve this part of the nation for future generations. Special fabric and markers will be available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for the month of January in the library. Please come and draw your house for the library collection. All drawings will be displayed in the library during Heritage Festival in April and selected drawings will be made into a giant wall hanging.

Scotland Island

2010 marks the 200 year anniversary since Andrew Thompson was given the land grant of Scotland Island by Governor Macquarie. Mona Vale Local Studies will be presenting a free photographic exhibition titled "Scotland island: 200 years of offshore living". The exhibition will be displayed during January.

Wealth for Women Session will be held on 8 March at 6.30pm to mark ***International Women's Day***

A local female financial planner will be talking about financial management for women. The talk will hopefully attract a broad cross section of women. More details to follow in the New Year.

Author Talks

23 talks were organised for 2009, with some very interesting guests, such as Susan Duncan (who gave 3 talks), journalists Peter Hartcher and Anne Maria Nicholson, politician and now Federal Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, local historian Jim Macken and best sellers, Linda Jaivin and Mary Moody as well as various local and first-time writers. This popular program has been well patronised and will return in February, 2010 with talks held on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings commencing at 6.30pm. More details to follow.

Book Reviews

Cat's Eye by Margaret Atwood F ATTW

A fabulous read, particularly if you have a girl in middle primary school. Bullying could well be closer than you think. Margaret Atwood has the ability to show you that fiction could be fact.

Reviewed by Trish Inglis

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson B MOR

As I was reading the last paragraphs, I found myself shaking my head in absolute astonishment, amazement and awe at the dedication of this incredible man, Greg Mortenson.

This book was co-written with David Oliver Relin and I can't recommend it highly enough, as it has given me a different insight into the hardships of people living in Pakistan and Afghanistan and the war with the Taliban. Also explored, is the oppression of girls within these countries and the lack of education.

Greg Mortenson was a mountaineer, who had failed attempts to climb K2 and found himself taken in by villagers from a settlement called Korphe when he'd lost his way and was disorientated by his descent of the mountain. After being treated with such kindness, he left with a promise to return to build a school for the girls of Korphe.

The story describes Mortenson's efforts to fulfil his promise to the people of Korphe. He has since built 55 schools for girls across both countries.

The title "Three Cups of Tea" is based upon the custom that when invited into a home for the first time to share tea with a villager, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honoured guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family.

Three Cups of Tea is a beautifully written, incredible and inspirational book, which I am truly glad to have read.

Reviewed by Michele Howard



MONA VALE LIBRARY

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