

# Check it out!

Bi-monthly Events - News - Information @ Eastern Regional Libraries May/June 2009

## LIBRARY WEEK 2009

The last week of May is Library Week and to celebrate we have a great program of library events.



ERL's Library Week Ambassador is author and reviewer Kevin Rabalais, and he will be our guest at a lunch at **Ferntree Gully Library on Monday 25 May at 12.30pm**. Audience members will be left in no doubt as to why we chose Kevin to be our very first Library Week Ambassador. His depth of literary knowledge and his love of books and reading make him the ideal selection.

On the evening of **Tuesday 26 May at 6.30pm at Borders Knox City** we will be holding our third annual Bag a Book event. Borders open exclusively for 160 lucky library members to come in and use the library's money to purchase books that they would like to see in their local library. There is also the chance for

people to purchase books for their own collection at a 15% discount.

**Wednesday 27 May brings 'Cooking the Books' at Healesville Library.** Author, reviewer, broadcaster and 'foodie' Ann Creber joins chef Ben Higgs from 'Wild Oak' in Olinda to present their favourite cookery books. Audience members are invited to bring their own favourite cookery book to share with the group. Healesville is great place to visit, to lunch or even just window shop, so make a day of it, join us for this fun event which will finish with a delicious afternoon tea.



**Thursday 28 is Biggest Morning Tea day;** all proceeds from these events go to Cancer Australia. There is a chance to belly dance with Aileen Wright, enjoy muffins made by Jill Hess and feast on music provided by some very talented musicians including Scottish folk singer Alex Legg and Celtic harpist Cath Connelly.



Crime author Jarad Henry is **Belgrave Library's guest at a Literary Lunch at 12.30pm on Thursday 28 May**. Jarad is a strategic advisor with Victoria Police and uses his knowledge to give his crime novels an authentic flavour. An excellent speaker and presenter we are delighted he can be our guest during Library Week. The \$7.50 charge includes lunch.

Library Week is an excellent opportunity to launch a new collection. **On Friday 29 May at 10.00am Croydon Library** will be celebrating the launch of their collection of books for antiques enthusiasts with an evaluation and appraisal session. Auctioneer and commission agent Lester DeVere from Auction Central will be our guest. Audience members are invited to bring one item for Lester to discuss and value. These sessions are always popular so bookings are essential.

Knox Library will hold the last major event of the week at their Friday@Your Library session with **'First Take Your Cookie....and Create Something Special' at 12.00pm**. The Victorian Cake Decorating Society Inc. will demonstrate great ways to create special biscuits to enchant your family and guests.

**Grab a Library Week brochure and book in at your local library. See you at Library Week 2009!**

## CHARLAINE HARRIS

Charlaine Harris has been writing for over 25 years. She grew up in the Mississippi delta & now lives in Arkansas with her husband & family. Harris has written several series, mostly with a mystery element. Her first series featured Aurora Teagarden, a Georgia librarian. Then came the Lily Bard series, set in Shakespeare, Arkansas. Her breakthrough was the creation of Sookie Stackhouse, a Louisiana barmaid with a telepathic connection to vampires, werewolves & other weird creatures. The series broke genre boundaries & tapped into the current fascination with the supernatural. The series began with *Dead Until Dark* & the 9<sup>th</sup> book in the series, *Dead & Gone*, has just been published. A television series based on the Sookie Stackhouse books, *True Blood*, has brought more readers to the books.



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## Literature Lakeside

Following last year's successful brunch with crime author John Silvester at the Lakeside Café Ringwood, we have decided to launch a three author program 'Literature Lakeside'.

The three authors we have selected as guests have all been prior guests at ERL, and all have left audiences wanting more. The Lakeside Café offers delicious food in a convenient location. We have put the two elements together to offer this brunch program.



life on the streets, on drugs and on the skids.

**Shane Maloney will be our guest on Sunday 26 July for the final brunch.** Winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Crime Fiction Shane's Murray Whelan novels have won him fans worldwide. A former director of the Melbourne Comedy Festival Shane is a sought after guest who has appeared at all of Australia's major literary events. Several of his novels have been adapted for television with considerable success. A great speaker, we are delighted that Shane is able to be our guest.



Our first guest on **Sunday 17 May at 10.30am is language expert Dr Kate Burridge.** ABC viewers will be familiar with Kate from her appearances on 'Can We Help'. Kate is the author of several books 'Weeds in the Garden of Words' and 'Blooming English'. She is currently the chair of Linguistics at Monash University. This event is a must for anyone who enjoys the sheer fun of words and language.

**Sunday 28 June at 10.30am our guest will be Melbourne journalist and author Kate Holden.** Kate has attracted large audiences due to her remarkable book 'In My Skin' an honest and wonderfully written account of a



**Bookings for all events can be made at your local library or telephone 1300 737 277**

## Membership Month in May

May is a good time to think about reading. The weather is getting cooler, time to settle down in the warmth and enjoy a good book.

Your Eastern Regional Libraries card is your passport to a world of opportunities.

The library has so many good books for you to enjoy, fiction or nonfiction. But it doesn't stop there; we have so much more to offer our members.

The latest DVDs and CDs can be found on our shelves, or if they are on loan can be reserved at no charge. We hold dozens of magazine titles on a huge variety of subjects. For those who fancy the challenge of a jigsaw puzzle we offer those for loan at several of our branches.

Children are an important focus for our service. Becoming familiar with books and reading from an early age stimulates imagination and encourages language skills.

We offer a vibrant storytime program tailored to the needs of pre-schoolers, starting with Tiny Tots, through Toddlers to Pre-School Storytime, all the while encouraging listening and learning skills.

Libraries are not just about books and items for loan, we are the gateway to information.

Whether you come into one of our branches, or search from home we can help. We maintain a wide variety of databases accessible from your home PC. From access to thousands of journal articles on a myriad of topics, up to date articles on

health issues or the price of an antique vase, the information is a mouse click away.

Our subscription to the 'Ancestry' and 'Find My Past' databases is a boon to family history researchers. Accessible only from the library PC's it is easy to book a time and search the Census and Birth Deaths and Marriage records for the UK and US. Share your family history experiences at our popular Genie Exchange sessions.

The library is a place for building friendships within your local community. Join one of our monthly Bookchat Groups; sharing a love of reading with others can make for a rewarding experience. We also offer other interest groups, gardening, travel, cookery, chess and military history are all catered for. Join us for our literary lunch program, a bird walk or any one of a number of one off events that we offer.

For someone unable to visit the library due to physical constraints we offer a Home Library Service. A monthly visit from a volunteer bringing library books can make a difference to someone's quality of life and community contact. If you know someone who would benefit from this service contact your local library to arrange a visit.

Libraries are continually evolving and responding to the needs of their users, so for leisure, learning, friendship and fun, sign up for a card and check us out.

