

Check it out!

Bi-monthly Events - News - Information @ Eastern Regional Libraries Feb/March 2009

FORTHCOMING AUTHORS FOR MARCH



Book Bites - Kevin Rabalais

Kevin Rabalais has been our guest on several occasions and on each occasion we have been impressed with the depth of his literary knowledge. In many ways he is the inspiration for the theme of this year's Book Bites at Croydon Library, which will concentrate on a love of books and reading.

Born in Louisiana Kevin arrived in Australia several years ago having already attracted attention with 'Novel Voices' interviews with award winning writers. Initially he came to research and write his novel 'Landscape of Desire' (2008) based on the Burke and Wills expedition. It is our good fortune that he has remained in Melbourne to do his PhD, and to continue his career as a reviewer and critic.

On our first meeting with Kevin the audience was fascinated by the depth of his knowledge, and love, of reading and literature. We have therefore decided to give the Book Bites guests the opportunity to share in this love. Please join us for a fascinating Book Bites.

Croydon Library

Thursday 12 March 12.30pm

Cost \$7.50 includes lunch. Bookings essential 9294 5640

Helene Chung Martin

Long term viewers of ABC television will remember Helene Chung, who was the first non-white reporter on Australian television, and the first female posted abroad by the ABC when she took up a posting to Beijing in 1983.

Helene is a fourth generation Australian and her book 'Ching Chong China Girl' is a memoir of her life from her Hobart childhood to her adulthood in Australia and overseas.

This is Helene's fourth book, her first; 'Shouting from China' covers her time as a correspondent in the Beijing of the 1980's, when her principal method of contact with Australia was an unreliable telephone line. Her next two books are the fruits of her love for her partner John Martin. The two met first as university students, renewed their acquaintance when Helene interviewed John for a story in 1976, and stayed together until John's death in 1993. 'Gentle John: My Love My Loss' was written as Helene came to terms with John's illness and death. 'Lazy Man in China' looks at China through John's letters and photographs and follows the slow changes as Peking becomes modern Beijing.

Helene Chung Martin is a sought after speaker and we are delighted that she will be a guest at Knox Library on Wednesday 18 March at 7.00pm. Free event. Bookings essential 9801 1422



Robert Burns

Robert Burns was born 250 years ago on January 25th 1759. He is Scotland's most loved poet, known as The Scottish Bard. He was born into a farming family at Alloway. He began writing poetry as a young boy while attending a local school, where his education included learning French & Latin. After his father's death in 1784, the family moved to Mossgiel, where Burns wrote some of his best-known poetry, including 'To a Mouse & The Holy Fair'. Burns loved women, & wrote some of the most beautiful love poems in the language, but his womanising led to many clashes with the Kirk, even after his marriage to Jean Armour in 1788. The success of his first book of poems in 1786 changed his life & he spent time in Edinburgh being hailed by literary society. He also began travelling around the country, collecting traditional Scots ballads, as well as working on his own compositions, such as Auld Lang Syne & Ae Fond Kiss. The final years of Burns' life were spent on his unprofitable farm, the hard physical labour aggravating a heart condition. He died in 1796 at the age of 37. His birthday is celebrated by Scots worldwide as Burns' Night, when his poetry is recited & haggis is eaten.

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The Knox Festival

We know the year is well underway when the Knox Festival comes around.

Running for over 30 years, the Festival attracts large crowds over the two days.

Ferntree Gully Library will be part of the festivities.

The ever popular Artrageous will be running continuous 'make and do sessions' on both days.

On Saturday 28 February at 12.30pm children and adults will enjoy the 'Magic Guy' Terry McSweeney Terry has performed at Crown Casino, the Comedy Festival and has even appeared on 'Neighbours' as a magician.

At 2.30 on Saturday afternoon we are delighted to be hosting author John Marsden. John has been acclaimed for his 'Tomorrow' series and the 'Ellie Chronicles'. He has sold over 3 million books worldwide. In 2006 John was presented with the Lloyd O'Neil Award for service to the Australian book industry. This is a not to be missed opportunity to hear an internationally recognised young peoples' author. There will a sales and signing session following the talk.

On Sunday 1 March at 12.30pm puppeteer Claire Everton will delight the audience with her fairytale puppets. Claire is a very experienced performer whose outstanding singing and theatrical talents will make this performance something to remember.

Finally at 2.00pm lovers of picture books, both big and small, will want to see Bob Graham. Bob is one Australia's most respected illustrators and authors. Bob is a past winner of the UK's prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal and three times winner of the Australian Children's Book of the Year Award.

Thanks to the generosity of a local manufacturer, the youth of Knox have been invited to decorate two hundred pairs of sneakers. The finished products will be on display at the library during the Festival.

Come and join us for a great weekend.



Fresh as a Daisy - a New Way to Read

Do you know someone who is having difficulty enjoying a good book due to sight or other physical difficulties, such as cerebral palsy, stroke or dyslexia?

Eastern Regional Libraries, in conjunction with several other regional libraries and Vision Australia has a number of Daisy readers to distribute to members of the community who are experiencing difficulty reading books.

The Daisy reader plays audio books in the same way as a CD player but there the similarity ends. The Daisy reader can 'remember your place' and it can do this for 999 books, so in theory you can be part way through a number of titles. You can set the Daisy reader to read for a definite period of time and then the snooze function will cut in and suspend play. The tone and speed of the reader can be altered at the touch of a button. More advanced functions such as the ability to move from an index to a numbered page make it ideal for students who are studying school texts. Additionally the Daisy reader is capable of holding sufficient battery charge for 5 hours, so it can be taken on day trips or into the garden. If the Daisy is accidentally dropped or knocked the case and mechanism have been designed to withstand harsh treatment.

Whilst the library can supply audio books for use with the reader, Vision Australia supply a wide range of titles on a single disc format by post. They will tailor titles to suit your individual reader profile and welcome your requests. Clients are welcome to join the service when they are issued with the reader.

If you are interested in a Daisy reader, for yourself, family member or friend please contact Janet Nolan Ph: 9800 6409

New Look Ferntree Gully Library



Ferntree Gully Library re-opened on Monday 2 February after a month's closure for renovations.

Ferntree Gully has always been a very attractive branch with its windows overlooking the park and the creek but this renovation has further enhanced its appeal.

New carpet, great colour scheme, new circulation desk, attractive couches and bean bags make the library a natural meeting place. The new shelving allows even more natural light into the library.

In addition to pleasant reading areas, the library now offers plasma screens for those who want to sit in comfort to watch sport or a movie. It will soon be possible to book a session on the Wii gaming console, which is sure to be popular with the young and not so young.

Parking is always easy at Ferntree Gully Library so do take the opportunity to visit, the staff will give you a very warm welcome.