

HIV/AIDS collection goes public

Responding to the need for easy access to information on HIV/AIDS, the Port Phillip Public Library Service, St Kilda Branch, launched its innovative HIV collection on 2 August.

The launch formed part of a two-week program of events and information sessions on St Kilda's Safe Syringe Project hosted by the Library.

The launch was attended by interested members of the public and representatives of support groups such as AIDS Care and Library and Council staff.

Guest speaker Phil Nott introduced and spoke about his recent publication *Dying at home*.

The HIV collection has over 300 items, including books, videos, brochures and pamphlets and covers a wide range of subjects from psychology, sociology and health issues to art and literature.

The information needs of youth, self-help groups and the local community are integral to the collection's composition.

Development was done mainly by customer service co-ordinator Annie Pearse, after consultation with health workers, community and government organisations.

The education value of the collection, enhancement of public awareness, accessibility and ease of use dictated the way it's presented and made available. Spine labels clearly indicate the item as forming part of the collection and all items are shelved together in a well sign-posted area.

Initial response has been positive, indicating its worth and relevance to the community.

The library is keen to hear from other public libraries that have set up or are considering a similar service.

Writers' showcase

The Melbourne Writers' Festival is on from 11–16 October this year, with more than 150 writers joining thousands of readers in six full days of forums, discussions, interviews and book launches. Now in its eighth year, the festival will present the very best of Australia's literary community and a fascinating line-up of overseas guests, including Erica Jong, Michael Dibdin, Jim Crace, Susan Moody, Patrick McCabe, Will Self, Minette Walters, Fay Weldon, Annie Dalton, Edna O'Brien, Seamus Heaney and Annie Proulx.

Quality lecture

If you have views on whether quality and profit are mutually exclusive, you'll be interested in some words of wisdom from the Bulletin/Qantas Businesswoman of the Year, NSW State Librarian Alison Crook. She will be at Brisbane's Greenslopes Hospital conference room on 11 October to present the inaugural AP Morton Trust Lecture in Brisbane next month. Her topics — quality and profit and marketing yourself and your business. Cost is \$30.

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