

From law books to Cozy Coupés



Louise Levido

Hills District Playgroups
Toy Library

The day after a Zone meeting I remember calling a good friend of mine and telling her that I thought I had done something really stupid. I was elected to the position of librarian for the Hills Zone District Playgroups Toy Library! What had I done? I knew quite a lot about law reports and statutes, but what was a Cozy Coupé?

I had worked in the libraries of the Land Titles and Crown Lands Offices, Supreme Court of New South Wales and the Legal Aid Commission, resigning from the Law Reform Commission after the birth of my daughter Kara. Only the other members of my playgroup knew what I did 'when I had a real job'.

The library team consists of the librarian and the toy library purchaser, Sally Newton-Chandler. We are assisted by a dedicated band of helpers, all volunteers. The collection contains a wide range of equipment and educational toys including puzzles, train and building sets, cars, cubbys, rocking horses, bikes, slides, trampolines and roller coasters. Our greatest problem is space — fortunately most of the floor stock is on loan regularly. Committee members need to take the larger items home over the Christmas period because they cannot fit into the library.

Membership covers the 800 families in the Hills Zone of the Playgroup Association of New South Wales. The library operates from the Balcombe Heights Community Buildings in Baulkham Hills on the first and third full weeks of a month and shares this venue with the Resource Cen-

tre which sells craft materials and other supplies.

Most of my work for the library is done from home, issuing loan cards, calling delinquent borrowers, accessioning, coordinating the rosters, writing brief articles for *Chit Chat* and taking bookings for the Party Packs, a collection of outdoor equipment, toys, tables and chairs for that special party. Sally and I get together regularly to discuss the selection of new toys and other library related matters. It's great fun to pore over the new toy catalogues and be able to spend other peoples' money!



Allison Chandler in a Cozy Coupé

When I was studying all those years ago we talked about books. I have found that a roller coaster and a book have much in common! It came as a surprise to me how quickly my skills returned after a long period of time, and when my term expires I will have gained experience in another area of library service. So, what is a Cozy Coupé? A car made of moulded plastic, large enough for a child to sit inside and drive. ■