Victoria's first rail-side library

Commuters borrow books at Frankston train station

Frankston Library Service has launched Victoria's first book lending service for commuters from Frankston train station.

The service, called *Frankston Library express* enables commuters travelling on the Frankston line to browse and borrow books Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30am to 8:30am.

Mayor, Councillor Cathy Wilson, applauded the initiative: 'We are bringing books out of the library to make borrowing easy, convenient and accessible. I know that many people commuting to Melbourne will appreciate this type of service. Special acknowledgement and thanks is also extended to the Frankston train station staff for their support and provision of a storage facility for the books.'

Frankston Library Service manager Heather Phillips said that this was first library service of its type in Victoria. 'Our aim is to bring books to people who find that they just don't have enough time to browse and borrow a book at the library. *Frankston Library express* has been designed to provide a quick selection and borrowing process for people on the move.'

At the launch, library staff set up a portable library desk with a laptop computer and portable shelving to reveal 300 books.

The response to the new service has been very encouraging. Twenty-nine new members signed for library membership on the first morning. Combined borrowings over the first two days totalled fifty-one books to forty-five people. The feedback from users has been very positive and more and more people have been asking for library membership forms.

Commuters found a wide range of titles including romance, suspense/thriller, crime/mystery, classics, general fiction and general interest (non-fiction) such as Bill Bryson *A walk in the woods*, Michael Moore *Stupid white men*, Peter Fitzsimons *Nancy Wake*, *Australian sports writing 2003*, as well as fiction by popular authors Matthew Reilly, Nora Roberts, Dennis Lehane, John Grisham, Monica McInerney, James Lee Burke, and J A Nance.

Frankston Library express staff Amanda Slack-Smith welcomes Margaret as the first patron to use the book borrowing service at the Frankston train station

Frankston Library express is funded by Frankston City Council and 'Beyond the Branches' a State Government funding initiative for libraries. For further information log onto the Frankston Library Service website at http://library.frankston.vic.gov.au, or phone the Frankston Library on 03 9784 1020. ∎

ALIA Information Literacy Forum newsletter

The ALIA Information Literacy Forum fosters a common understanding of, and advocates for, information literacy. The Forum produces a newsletter three to four times each year which acts as a vehicle for informing members of current activities and issues related to information literacy. The newsletter showcases learning experience initiatives and provides a forum for information exchange. Members are encouraged to contact the convenor (Lesley Ngatai, University of New South Wales, ph 02 9662 6109, l.ngatai@unsw.edu.au) or the newsletter editor (Jane Knowles, University of New South Wales ph 02 9385 0710 fax: 02 9385 0686, j.knowles@unsw.edu.au) if they have stories to tell or activities to share.

The newsletter moved to electronic delivery in August 2003 and is available at http://alia.org.au/members-only/groups/infolit/newsletter/.

Members will be prompted for their membership number and password, and there is assistance available to members who have forgotten their password.

To subscribe to the newsletter, members need to go to the e-list web interface at http://lists.alia.org.au/mailman/listinfo/aliaINFOLIT and enter their e-mail address and a password.

Members who do not have e-mail access will continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter. ∎