

Mornington Library

Our Peninsula's favourite place!



On 29 May 2004, Mornington Library opened its doors for the first time, welcoming 3264 people on the first day. The first month brought 26 593 visitors, borrowing 52 945 items, 68 per cent higher than in June 2003. An astounding 897 new members joined on the first day alone. People continue to stream in through the large doors today and public approval of the library is very high! In a recent borrower survey Mornington Library had 99 per cent satisfaction levels and a mystery borrower evaluation rated it in the top five libraries for customer service in the state. Mornington Library has received the YBE award for Victoria's Favourite Place for the Outer Melbourne Region as well as Institutional Architecture Award from the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Would you like a walk-through? Well, let's go...

'Welcome to Our Library' and 'Relax Enjoy Achieve Discover' are the messages revealed as the doors open, giving you the first glimpses of the interior and the friendly smiles of librarians at the distant Loans Desk.



Enjoy the latest releases with your cake and coffee

The grand entrance encourages you to look at the magazines and 56 000+ books as well as a fantastic portrait of children's author Terry Denton. Above you, natural light streams in through skylights, minimising the use of artificial lighting. The building aims to combine sustainable energy features with up-to-date technology: the main skylights incorporate louvres to 'night purge' and draw in

the late night air to cool the building in summer. Sensors and timers control lighting and ventilation, and solar heating is used for the hot water system.

The colours are reminiscent of the wintry ocean (which you can glimpse from the Mornington Library): charcoal for the driftwood found on the beach, white which reminds of sandy beaches, the burnt orange of cliffs and lime green of seaweed, making a relaxing environment for the local and tourist community.

You will notice the Internet Lounge directly ahead, with eight computers for public use. Here our reference librarian runs 'Get Net Smart' classes from beginners through to advanced.

All around you are lounge areas for chatting, reading and studying. Teenagers have their own area for privacy and com-

fort, hidden behind the internet terminals.

Follow the laughter around the corner to find the fantastic children's area! This area has eight small bean bags for children to sit on as well as small cubes. In this area on Wednesdays and Thursdays children come to Storytime, hosted by Youth Services librarians. As you stand here on a wintry day you can look out to the fabulous outdoor courtyard; in summer, why not take out a book and a coffee to sit in the fresh air next to our *Homage to Lorca* sculpture?

Which leads us to the coffee lounge... Borrowers are encouraged to take a coffee anywhere in the library, perhaps to join the fun and games in the children's area or to a quieter area such as the private study rooms which also double as community meeting rooms.

So you want to study and the Community Meeting Room study area is not available? Our Mornington Library also has eight private study tables. These tables have been purpose-built for study and have power available for laptops.

Garner Davis Architects were responsible for the design and creation of Mornington Library; their inspiration was Matthew Flinders' voyage into Port Phillip Bay in 1802. Harmony and balance created by placement of features were influenced by the work of Isamu Noguchi.

Where is Mornington Library?

Mornington Library, Vancouver St, Mornington Victoria 3931, ph 03 5950 1820.

Teisha Westwood, library marketing strategist, Mornington Library

So, what are the big changes in facilities between the old library and the new library?

| | Old library | New library |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Floor space (m2): | 447 | 1300 |
| Collection size: (2001 and 2005) | 44 320 | 56 161 |
| Seating: | 11 | 60 |
| Tables: | 3 | 22 |
| Children's seats: | 8 | 42 |
| Bean bags: | 2 | 16 |
| Community meeting rooms: | – | 2 |
| Study tables: | 1 | 16 |
| Outdoor seating areas | – | 2 |
| Coffee lounge | – | 1 |
| Public internet PCs | 4 | 8 |

What difference have these facilities made to the use of the library?

| | August 2003 | August 2004 | August 2005 | Increase (%) |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Members | 15 448 | 17 742 | 19 772 | + 28 |
| Visits | 16 174 | 21 598 | 22 203 | + 37.3 |
| Loans | 32 838 | 46 919 | 47 388 | + 44.3 |



Miniature bean bags scattered ready for use by the library's latest generation of readers