

# The Murrindindi Toy Library is coming!!!!

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Murrindindi Toy Library is on the way! It will be a mobile Toy Library, with 2 trailers operating between Marysville and Alexandra, and between Kinglake and Flowerdale. By having a mobile Toy Library, we are able to cover a large part of the Murrindindi Shire. We are hoping that the Toy Library will open early in the New Year, possibly February.

The toys are suitable for birth to six year olds, and include puzzles, games, baby toys, transport and home corner toys, costumes, construction, Duplo, Active play and creative play toys, music and science toys. All toys so far, both new and used, have been donated by families in Melbourne's east. The toys are sturdy, fun and educational, and will enable your little one to learn through play (and give you at least ½ an hour's peace when you first bring it home from the toy library!!). Depending on the availability of volunteers to transport the trailers, or alternatively access to funding for wages and travel costs, the Library will operate either fortnightly or monthly at each location. The borrowing period will be for this period of time.

It is hoped that only a minimal membership fee (approx \$30 per family p.a.) will be charged in the first two years of operation, as your communities get established again. After that, fees will increase to enable the Library to be self sufficient, without the need for grants etc.

I am extremely grateful to the following organisations, businesses and individuals who, without a second thought, have donated money, goods and services to assist in the establishment of your Toy Library:

- Michelle from **Mibase** has very generously donated a fully licensed version of the Toy Library Database program, together with the support needed to set it up.
- **Infoxchange** have donated 2 brand new laptop computers!!!
- **JH Legal Pty Ltd** have donated their services to establish the Unincorporated Association entity for us.
- **Raeco** have donated \$500 worth of plastic bags with handles, which are used to store and transport the toys.
- **Leon & Paul Savage's Streaker Boats Pty Ltd** have donated 2 tow ball locks for the trailers.
- **Toy Libraries Victoria** have donated one year's worth of insurance, which will cover public liability etc
- **Di Storrar** is a busy Mum who has kindly donated her time and abilities to create the MTL logo, flyers, posters, membership cards etc.
- **Charlinda Parsons**, also a busy Mum, who has offered to donate her time and who will hopefully be able to procure more grants for us in the future!

- **Susan Stork Finlay**, yep, a busy Mum too, who had the idea to establish a Toy Library for you, and had the Kinglake contacts!

- **Kate Riddell**, who has been our eyes and ears around Kinglake.

- Countless families in Melbourne's east for the donation of fabulous toys.

So what else do we need??? Most of all **WE NEED YOU!!!** It's your Toy Library – if you are interested in joining, please contact me on 03 9874 7673 or at [pkgoldsmith@netspace.net.au](mailto:pkgoldsmith@netspace.net.au). If you would like, I can email you the proposal I have drafted for the Toy Library.

We also need:

- Your Feedback! It is your Toy Library, and we need you to tell us how best to run it for you. We certainly don't want to be seen to be telling you what to do! Call or email at the above.

- If you would like to, we would LOVE you to join the Committee. Yes, I hear you groaning. Hmmm. We all have lives to lead, and I am not into having long committee meetings myself. However, if you have a little time to spare, please consider joining our committee – if not as an executive member (ie. President, Secretary or Treasurer) then perhaps as a general member. General members would not need to attend meetings if they do not wish to. There are several of us in Melbourne prepared to assist in the operation of the Toy Library for the first 2 years or so, but ultimately it will be up to you to run.

- Ideally, we need volunteers to transport the trailers between the towns, and to operate the Library for the opening times (opening times will vary depending on demand, but say 1 ½ hours to begin with).

- Do you know a signwriter who would embellish the trailers for us with our logo?

- Are you able to assist with advertising the Toy Library?

- Do you know of a printer who would print posters, flyers and membership cards for us?

My husband and two children have had such wonderful times in the Murrindindi Shire, primarily at Marysville and Buxton, and we hope that this Toy Library may bring you as much joy as your community has brought to us. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Kindest Regards  
Kathryn Goldsmith