

Oberon Council Library Committee

Meeting 7th June 2010

Manager's Report

Last week I attended a zone meeting in Orange where discussed the implementation of the joint grant received for "Books on Prescription" collections in central west libraries, held a planning session for next year's National Year of Reading, involving some joint zone themes along with local ones and looked at participating in online "Frontline" reader development training as a zone project.

Simultaneous story time has just been completed with sessions today for a playgroup followed by St Joseph's Kindergarten visiting the library for "Feathers for Phoebe".

Focus in the library at present is on looking at alternative purchasing methods. Resource purchasing has always been from a range of sources, in order to obtain the best range and price- the majority being from online suppliers, regular visiting booksellers, direct purchasing at Big W and from remainder sales. Prices are almost always heavily discounted with little or no freight costs. Several months ago I began discussions with the local second hand book dealer regarding future purchases. This has proved productive although stock available will be limited due to the size of the business. Savings could also be possible through using overseas online companies (avoiding GST) although initial research indicates that new publications are not necessarily much cheaper. Enquiring about eBay purchasing has raised the issues of extra staff time being needed to deal with multiple small suppliers, reliability and timeliness of supply and suitability of merchandise but investigation is ongoing.

It is understandable that savings need to be found across council although it is disappointing that the frugal nature of existing expenditure on resources and training in particular has not been taken into consideration, leading to the assumption that large savings can be made in these areas without reducing services. Library stakeholders are expressing concern that the resource budget is being cut so radically without consultation.

Jenny Hansen

Library Manager