



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 13 July 2009

YPRL's New Festival invites Busy Booklovers to Indulge

Yarra Plenty Regional Library's inaugural Booklovers Festival to be held from Monday 27 July to Thursday 30 July heralds the arrival of an innovative book program that meets the needs of the modern reader.

Well-known and lauded authors Arnold Zable, Jacinta Halloran, Kate Holden, James Phelan, Greg De Moore and Bette Shiels are set to speak at the festival, leading the conversation about books at six separate events across the library service.

The bedside reads program involves regular chats about books at all the Yarra Plenty Regional Library branches, where booklovers are invited to attend to chat about what books they are reading or are currently on their bedside table.

YPRL Chairman City of Whittlesea Cr. Sam Alessi says the festival is great for local readers "It exposes them to well-known authors and their works and allows them to form connections with other readers in the community."

YPRL Reading and Literacy Coordinator Kerri Pleydell-Sander points out that bedside reads is perfect for busy readers who love books but don't have time to read a book a month for a book club. Booklovers can get together to talk about books, meet other like-minded people and get ideas about what to read next.

The Booklovers Festival has been designed to appeal to all booklovers. The diverse authors appearing at the events have written interesting autobiography, contemporary fiction, thrillers, historical biography and paranormal fiction. There will also be an opportunity to buy the authors' books and have them signed.

Writer Bette Shiels talks about her autobiographical book about life as a foster care mum *Thorns Among the Briar Roses* and her paranormal novel *Home of Tortured Souls* as well as what she likes to read at Mill Park Library on Monday 27 July between 7.00pm and 8.00pm, and award-winning author Arnold Zable chats about his new book *Sea of Many Returns*, which takes us to the Greek isle Ithaca, and his reading choices at Lalor Library on Tuesday 28 July between 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

For the full bedside reads Booklovers Festival program, visit the Yarra Plenty Reads blog at <http://yarraplentyreads.blogspot.com>

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

Please contact me on 9401 0755 to organise an appropriate time for pre-event photography.

- A photograph of someone reading a book in a makeshift bed at the library surrounded by books (depicting 'bedside reads')
- Author photographs and biographies attached. Authors are available for interview.

For further information:

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