



## Holiday fun in the library!

Lots of fun was had during the school holidays with children of all ages attending events and activities at our library branches and outreach vehicle.

Crafty kids used their imagination to create pet rocks, mosaic tiles, safari binoculars, Lego constructions and their own worm farms.

Children's author, Susea Spray visited the Swan Hill, Robinvale, Barham and Mathoura branches for a special storytime and craft.

At the Robinvale Library, CJ and his hilarious puppets were a huge hit. Children had lots of fun participating in various craft activities, story times and a special cake decorating session to celebrate the Robinvale Library's third birthday.

Libby the Library's Outreach vehicle visited the Manangatang and Nyah Two-Bays swimming pools, providing lots of Super Heroes summer fun and activities for local children.

The Big Summer Read kept children reading throughout January, with incentives along the way to encourage them to continue reading and complete more entries. Prize draw: Robinvale Library at 4pm on Wednesday 7 February, and Swan Hill Library at 4pm on Friday 9 February. (see page 9 for more information).

*For Learning, For Leisure, For Life*



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***Big Summer Read presentation and prize draws are in early February! Have you handed in your reading log sheets?***

## Coming soon

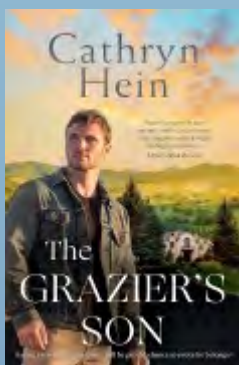
*Harbor Lights*  
James Lee Burke

*Black Silk & Sympathy*  
Deborah Challinor

*Front Sight*  
Stephen Hunter

*Sicilian Affair*  
Susan Lewis

*Goodbye Girl*  
James Grippando



*The Grazier's Son*  
Cathryn Hein

*Hero*  
Thomas Perry

*Looking Out*  
Fiona McCallum

*Shadow King*  
Harry Sidebotton



*New Couple in 5B*  
Lisa Unger

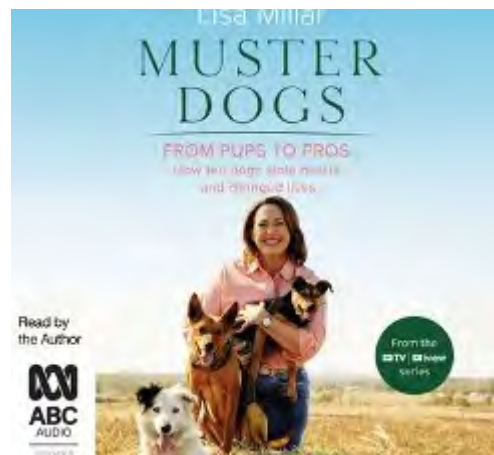
## BorrowBox e-audiobook of the month

### *Muster Dogs*

**Lisa Millar**

When *Muster Dogs* first hit screens in 2022, viewers were enchanted. Five lively kelpie pups adopted into farming homes across Australia on an intensive training program became instant stars. Could they learn to herd and muster within a year? Could they show that working with dogs was a better way to farm?

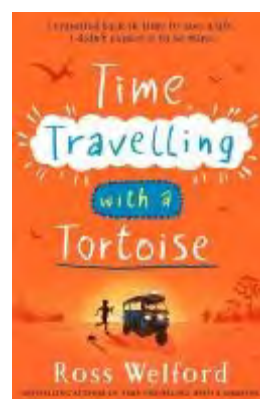
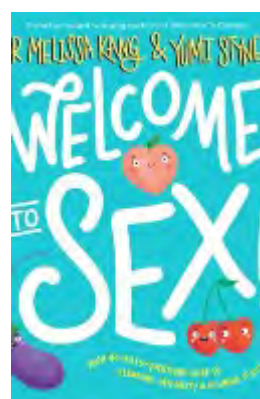
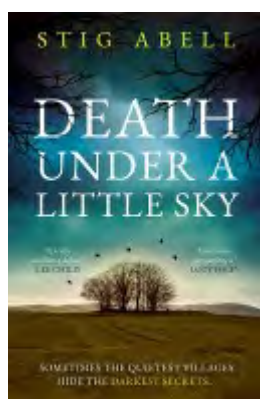
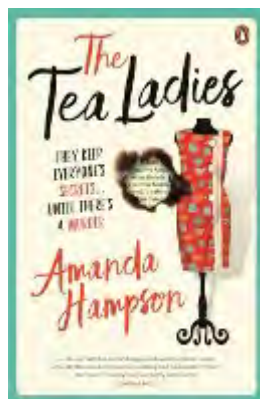
Among those who lost their hearts to these amazing puppies was narrator Lisa Millar. In this companion book to the show, Lisa takes us behind the scenes to meet the cast, the crew and the star dogs themselves. On this journey across two seasons of *Muster Dogs*, Lisa brings us up to date with all the beloved characters and pups from series one – and



introduces us to five new tiny collies and their trainers that feature in series two.

With behaviour tips from trainers and experts, this is an audiobook for everyone, from farm owners to city dog lovers.

## Featured BorrowBox e-books for February



Download from the Library's website or the FREE BorrowBox app. Download or 'borrow' up to six e-audiobooks and six e-books at a time, for three weeks.

Remember: an early return increases your available loans immediately and reserves count as loans.

Find out what's happening at the Library



Visit [library.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://library.swanhill.vic.gov.au)  
or like us on Facebook or Instagram!



# uLibrary e-audiobook of the month

*In the Greek Midwinter*  
Mandy Baggott

It was supposed to be a holiday of a lifetime...

But when Jen's boyfriend David suddenly cancels their romantic Paris trip, needing to urgently travel to Athens for work, it's best friend Bonnie who suggests they surprise him.

Having already booked the time off from her events company - Christmas Every Day - Jen decides an impromptu and romantic gesture might be just what their relationship needs.

Arriving in Greece and finding David is not there, Jen has a lot of questions. And when she gets her answers she has a choice - should she go home or



should she stay a while?

With the help of Astro, the handsome yet Christmas-hating waiter from the local bar, she sets about a little Greek Christmas research. But what starts as a 'business trip' soon turns into something more...

## More free digital resources



## Book Chat

Book Chat is open to people aged 16 years and over. The Book Chat group meets at the Library every second Wednesday of the month, 7pm-8.30pm.

New members are welcome!

## Knitter Knatters

Every Tuesday morning from 10am-12pm.

Knit, crochet, sew & chat!

## Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society

Open hours:

Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 3pm.

## Toy Library

Re-opened on Friday 2 February.

Open hours:  
Friday 11am-12pm  
Saturday 10am-11.30am  
1st Wednesday of the month, 11am - 12pm

See page 6 for flyer with more information including a special story time and fun session with new toys on Saturday 3 February.

# Celebrating Library Lover's Day on 14 February!



## library lovers' day



Tell us in 25 words or less why the library is important to you...

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PH: \_\_\_\_\_

Place your entry into the box provided at the Swan Hill Library for a chance to win a box of chocolates!

Entries close 5.30pm, Monday 19 February.

**Take a chance on a book!**

**Choose a blind date to take home and read. (For adults).**



# Library Lover's drawing competition for kids!



*library lovers' day*



Draw a picture showing why the library is important to you...  
(open to children aged 8 years and under)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PH: \_\_\_\_\_

Place your entry into the box provided at the Swan Hill Library by  
Monday 19 February, for a chance to win a box of chocolates!

## Are you over 50 and need help with digital technology?

### Join the Be Connected Young Mentors program

Students from St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill will help you get connected and you will help them develop valuable life skills.

Learn whatever you need to help you with everyday tasks and go at your own pace.



Learn to use a mobile phone, tablet, laptop, smartphone or computer more effectively.



Learn to send emails and video chat with family online.



Get directions on Google maps... and much more



swan hill regional **library**

Call now to register your interest [\(03\) 5036 2480](tel:0350362480)



## Nourishing Little Minds

Do you have a fussy eater? Would you like to learn more about introducing new foods to your preschooler?

Swan Hill District Health Community Health and Swan Hill Regional Library are running a series of special Nourishing Little Minds sessions helping children explore and enjoy healthy food.

Includes food tasting and preparation activities coordinated by an Accredited Practising Dietitian.

Parents/carers will receive recipes, tips and strategies on introducing and positively exposing children to healthy foods.

**Where:** Swan Hill Regional Library  
**When:** **Week 1:** Thursday 22 February  
**Week 2:** Thursday 29 February  
**Week 3:** Thursday 7 March  
**Week 4:** Thursday 14 March

**Time:** 10.00am - 11.00am

**Cost:** FREE

It is recommended that families book for and attend ALL FOUR SESSIONS. Book now on 50362480.

*Nourishing Little Minds is a Registered Trademark of Nutrition Australia ACT Incorporated.*

Stories,  
interactive  
songs and  
rhymes

For ages  
3 - 5

A yummy  
twist on  
Move &  
Groove!

Swan Hill Community

# Toy Library

Play · Learn · Party

The Swan Hill Community Toy Library Committee is proud to reveal our new logo and to announce that in 2024 we will begin operating online. Members and the general public will be able to access information about our entire range of toys, including images, to see what is available in the Toy Library. More details will be shared in the next newsletter, and on our SHCTL Facebook and Instagram.

Swan Hill Community Toy Library is open from Friday February 2. Our regular opening times are

Friday 11.00am-12.00pm

Saturday 10am-11.30am

First Wednesday of the month 11.00am-12.00pm

New members are welcome at any time.

12 month membership options for families are

Family 1 (Maximum of 3 toys borrowed at a time) \$45

Family 2 (Maximum of 6 toys borrowed at a time) \$50

Toys can be borrowed as frequently as members choose, with a maximum loan period of four weeks.

**Come to the Saturday Storytime  
at the Swan Hill Regional Library  
on Sat. February 3 at 10.30-11.15am  
for a fun session featuring stories and toys  
from the Swan Hill Community Toy Library**



## New Toys







## BIG Summer Read Prize Draw

If you were one of the awesome readers who registered for the Big Summer Read at the Swan Hill Library or on Libby, the library outreach vehicle and returned a reading log to us prior to Wednesday, 31 January, your are invited to attend our major prize draw at **4pm on Friday, 9 February 2024.**

Here are some of the fantastic prizes to be won!

- Apple iPad
- Apple AirPods
- Lego packs
- A Family 3-in-1 pass which includes admission to the Pioneer Settlement
- Gaming headphones & desktop
- \$50 Toyworld gift cards
- \$50 EB Games gift cards
- \$50 Showbiz Cinema gift cards...and lots more!



With thanks to our generous sponsors;



SWAN HILL

Swan Hill Windscreens  
**COLLISION REPAIR CENTRE**



Please note: BIG Summer Read Beanstack competition winners will be drawn and notified separately.



## Free homework help

**Studiosity** is a free, secure, online learning service that connects individual students to qualified, expert tutors.

Support is available for students from Grade 4 to Year 12,

The tutors help with:

- Homework
- Assignments
- Exam preparation
- Study questions
- Maths
- Science
- English
- Assignment research
- Study skills



Students can connect to anonymous tutors seven days a week! Access **Studiosity** from home, at the Library or anywhere there is internet access, using your Swan Hill Regional Library card membership number.

To access **Studiosity**, go to [library.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://library.swanhill.vic.gov.au) and click on the Studiosity icon at the bottom of the screen or the Homework Help button on the right of the screen.

You can also download the free **Studiosity** app.

## Home Library deliveries

The Home Library service is available to all members who are housebound or in aged care and reside within the Swan Hill city limits.

If you reside in other towns in the Swan Hill Rural City council area, we may be able to arrange delivery of books to you via the Library's Outreach vehicle.

A range of books, magazines and audio books are delivered to your door by library staff. Do you require large print books? Audio books on CD? We have a large range of titles including biographies.

Delivery is on the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a free service. Please speak to library staff for more information.



## STORYTIMES JANUARY 2024

### Swan Hill Library:

#### Move and Groove

Wednesday at 10.30 am

Highly interactive session tailored for a toddler's social, emotional & physical development.

#### Baby Rhyme Time

Friday at 10.30 am

A fun & interactive session aimed at parents & carers with babies under 18 months.

#### Saturday Storytime

Saturday at 10.30 am

This storytime session gives children the opportunity to socialise and develop their language skills whilst having fun! A range of stories will be read & there will be craft packs to take home.

Aimed at children aged 3-7.

### Robinvale Library:

Thursdays at 10.30am

Join us to listen to stories in a fun, learning environment.

## Thrive By Five: Dad's Action Plan for the early years

Swan Hill Rural City Council and the Swan Hill Regional Library support the Dad's Action Plan for the Early Years. Council is encouraging people to add their name to the campaign.

Prominent dads and organisations from across Australia have come together to launch the [Dads' Action Plan for the Early Years](#) and show their support for early years reform.



**If you're a dad, carer or parent who wants your kids to Thrive by Five - add your name to make the campaign stronger.**

### What is the Action Plan all about?

Outdated gender stereotypes mean that sometimes dads feel like it's not their role to focus on their child's quality of care, or that they aren't supported to be involved by employers or the community.

But equitable parenting arrangements are better for everyone - kids, mums, dads, workplaces, the economy and broader society.

That's why a new alliance of dads and organisations have joined Thrive By Five to launch the Dads Alliance Action Group and the Dads' Action Plan, outlining key policy changes that would empower dads to help their kids thrive by five, promote equitable parenting and give kids the best possible start in life.



[Join the effort. Add your name to the campaign and send the Dads' Action Plan to the dads in your life asking for their support.](#)

## 1000 BOOKS BEFORE SCHOOL

Ask Library staff about the '1000 books before school program'.

Children under five years can be registered. You will need to be a Swan Hill Regional Library member.

We will give you a journal for you to record each book you share with your child.

Each time you reach a milestone in the journal, bring it along to the library for a prize. You will receive an extra special reward when you reach the 1000 books milestone!



# THRIVE BY FIVE



*Thrive by Five is an initiative of Minderoo Foundation that is campaigning to make our early learning childcare system high quality and universally accessible. We believe this to be the most significant educational, social and economic reform of our era. Minderoo Foundation is a modern philanthropic organisation. The foundation is driven by ideas that will improve the lives of Australians and is prepared to tackle the tough and systemic issues that require leadership and change. More information: [thrivebyfive.org.au](http://thrivebyfive.org.au)*

Robinvale Learning & Community Hub 3rd birthday celebrations!



## School holiday fun at Robinvale Library!

Children had lots of fun getting creative at the Robinvale Learning & Community Hub over the January School holidays! Activities included Move & Groove sessions, games, lots of craft, a special story time session with children's author, Susea Spray and a visit from CJ and his hilarious puppets!



*Left:*

Children's author Susea Spray reading her book 'The Big Blue Boat' to children at the Robinvale Library.

## Branch operating hours:

**Note: Murray River Council Libraries will be closed on Tuesday 13 February.**

**Barham Library:** Tuesday and Friday 12pm-5pm, Thursday 10am-3pm, Saturday 10am-12pm. Phone (03) 5480 1587.

**Mathoura Library:** Located in the Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre. Open Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm. Phone: 1300 087 004.

**Moulamein Library:** Tuesday and Friday 2pm-6.30pm, Saturday 10am-12pm. Phone (03) 5480 1702.

**Robinvale Learning & Community Hub:** Monday and Wednesday 2pm-6pm, Thursday 9am-1pm, Saturday 10am-12pm. Phone (03) 5036 2461.

Big Summer Read Prize Drawer at 4pm Wednesday, 7 February!

# Barham Library news

## School Holiday fun at the Barham Library

Our school holiday activity 'Summertime fun and flavours' was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees on Tuesday 9 January. A big thank you to Kaye and Joy, our wonderful volunteers for their assistance on the day.



We had a wonderful storytime session on Thursday 18 January with children's author Susea Spray. Susea shared her picture book 'A Big Blue Boat', followed with some fun songs and craft. Everyone had a lovely time and learnt a lot about being on a boat on the sea!



## Move and Groove

Move & Groove has once again seen the children enjoy some lovely stories read by Joy, our wonderful volunteer during January and created some beautiful craft. Move & Groove is on every Thursday morning at 10.30am.

## Saturday Storytime

Our Saturday Storytime will recommence on the 9 March with the story and craft yet to be determined.

## Digital Mentoring Program

We continue to take bookings for digital help for people with their devices etc. through our partnership with Be Connected and the Digital Mentoring program.

## Cryptic Crosswords

The Cryptic Crossword workshops have been running every Friday afternoon at 1.30pm. Participants are enjoying learning the tricks to easily solve these elusive puzzles whilst enjoying each other's company. Afternoon tea is provided. This is a free workshop and iPads are available for use.



murray river  
council

## BARHAM LIBRARY

### Social Book Chat Club

Every Tuesday at 11am

Bring along a coffee and the book you're currently reading (instant coffee is also available).

Chat about what's a good read or just listen in.

### Move and Groove

Thursdays at 10.30am

Songs, dance, storytime and craft for toddlers and pre-schoolers!

### Saturday Storytime

Second Saturday of the month at 10.30 am

Storytime and craft in a fun learning

## MOULAMEIN LIBRARY

### Storytime

Every second Tuesday at 2pm.

Storytime and craft in a fun, learning environment.

### Games Afternoon

Friday 3pm to 6.30pm.  
All ages welcome!

# School holiday fun at the Library and out in the community!



**Swan Hill Regional Library**

[library.swanhill.vic.gov.au](http://library.swanhill.vic.gov.au)

Find us on Facebook or Instagram

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Phone (03) 5036 2333 Fax (03) 5036 2483

[library@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:library@swanhill.vic.gov.au)

This services is provided by the Swan Hill Rural City Council