

A Library like Alice set to launch

Thursday, 28 October 2021

Members have borrowed hundreds of thousands of books from the Alice Springs Public Library over the years, ranging from romance novels to historical marvels.

Now residents can read about the history of the Alice Springs Public Library with a special edition book launching in November.

A library like Alice: A history of the Alice Springs Public Library details the wonderful and rich history of the iconic location with anecdotes from staff, both past and present, volunteers and patrons alike.

The book has been compiled by current Special Collections Coordinator Eleanor Hogan, detailing everything from its opening in the old Gum Tree Café on Todd Street in 1953 to its days on Hartley Street opposite OLSH, where many people remember first borrowing books, to the lively community hub we know now beside the Civic Centre.

“The book tells stories about the colourful characters associated with the library, and the people who bring the place to life,” Ms Hogan said.

“People such as Joy Brucek, the first librarian, who apocryphally hijacked a fire truck to bring down 2000 books from Darwin, and Olive Pink, the Afghan cameleers and Arrernte who lived on the original Civic block.

“In compiling the book, I trawled through hundreds of Council photos, old newspapers and reports, and interviewed patrons and library staff, such as Sylvia Perrurle Neale, Des and Pat Nelson, Peter Latz, Fran Kilgariff, Damien and Carmel Ryan, with longstanding memories of the library.”

MEDIA RELEASE



A library like Alice: A history of the Alice Springs Public Library will be launched at a special event at the front of the Alice Springs Public Library on Friday 5 November at 3.30pm.

The launch will feature talks from long serving Library staff, as well as a free barbecue for attendees.

"Alice Springs Town Council are really proud of our Library and we hear all the time about the amazing work of our Library team," Mayor Matt Paterson said.

"This book is a fantastic encapsulation of the history of the Alice Springs Public Library. If you've ever stepped foot into the Library, whether it was to borrow a book, attend Baby Rhyme Time or just to relax, I'm sure you'll love this book."

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