



MEDIA RELEASE | 31 October 2023

Give the Gift of Reading This Christmas

The Victor Harbor Library is once again calling on community members to donate books to children in need across the Fleurieu Peninsula.

As part of the 'Give the Gift of Reading' program, local community members are encouraged to donate a new children's book (for children aged between 0-18 years) to the Victor Harbor Library.

All donations will then be forwarded to Grandcarers SA and the City of Victor Harbor's Fleurieu Families team, who will distribute the books to children in need across the Fleurieu Peninsula and southern Adelaide.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said she is continually impressed with the generosity and kindness of the local community during the festive season.

"Every year, this initiative receives an enormous response from our charitable community. If you are in a position where you can contribute, I encourage you to do so," said Mayor Jenkins.

"In 2022, 253 books were donated and distributed to local families. That's hundreds of families who received a book. I just know we can go above and beyond that number this time around."

"Place a book under the Christmas tree in the Victor Harbor Library and know that you are helping to make Christmas a little more special for a deserving child."

The benefits of reading cannot be underestimated. Literacy has been proven to build self-esteem, enable life-long learning and improve quality of life. Reading to a child from an early age can also help to establish bonds between children and caregivers.

"As well as helping to develop literacy skills, books provide a chance for children to grow their imagination and escape into a different world. This experience is something you can provide a local child as part of the 'Give the Gift of Reading' program," said Mayor Jenkins.

Grandcarers SA have partnered with the Victor Harbor Library to deliver this program since 2017.

Grandcarers SA is a volunteer based, not-for-profit organisation formed over 21 years ago. The organisation provides support and advocacy to grandparents and other kinship carers who could be struggling with the emotional, financial and legal complexities of caring for their grandchildren.

Grandcarers SA Operations Coordinator, Joanne Lauristen, said the key to improving future outcomes for children is encouraging their commitment to learning.

“Grandcarers SA is thrilled to be able to continue the Victor Harbor Library’s tradition of ‘Giving the Gift of Reading’ due to the generosity of the local community,” said Ms Lauristen.

“This program provides a variety of books to children ranging from pre-school to young adults who are in the primary care of their grandparents. Hundreds of children and families over the past few years have been able to select books at Christmas time tailored to their own reading levels and interests.”

Book donations will be accepted from Wednesday, 1 November until 12pm on Saturday, 2 December 2023.

Books should be newly purchased (not used) and they do not need to be gift wrapped.

‘Give the Gift of Reading’ was first initiated by Playford Library Services in 2012 and has won various community and local government awards.

For more information about the ‘Give the Gift of Reading’ program, please contact the Victor Harbor Library on (08) 8551 0730.

If you are a grandcarer and wish to know more about Grandcarers SA, please contact contactus@gfgsa.com.au or phone (08) 8212 1937.