



MEDIA RELEASE | 7 November 2022

Give the Gift of Reading this Christmas

***“The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr Seuss***

This festive season, the Victor Harbor Library is once again participating in the ‘Give the Gift of Reading’ program and is calling for the community to participate.

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 Grandparents for Grandchildren 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.

Grandparents for Grandchildren SA have partnered with the Victor Harbor Library to deliver this program since 2017.

Grandparents for Grandchildren SA is a volunteer based, not-for-profit organisation formed over 16 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.

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

“Grandparents for Grandchildren 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.

“The 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.”

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.

City of Victor Harbor Acting Chief Executive Officer, Karen Rokicinski, said local residents who are able are encouraged to donate a new children’s book for children in need.

“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,” Ms Rokicinski said.

“For some children, this may be the first book they have ever owned and possibly the only present they will be receiving this Christmas.”

“When you donate a book, you will help to make Christmas memorable for the young person who receives that special gift.”

“Thank you to the team at the Victor Harbor Library, Grandparents for Grandchildren SA, Fleurieu Families, and our generous community for contributing to this great initiative.”

Community members can donate children’s books to the Victor Harbor Library until 12pm on Saturday, 3 December 2022 when they will be collected by Grandparents for Grandchildren SA and Fleurieu Families.

Books do not need to be gift wrapped and can simply be handed to Library staff over the counter at 1 Bay Road, Victor Harbor.

‘Give the Gift of Reading’ was originally 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 Grandparents for Grandchildren SA, please contact contactus@gfgsa.com.au or phone (08) 8212 1937.