

Remember the "three C's"

Before returning your toys, it is the member's responsibility to:

- C**ount the number of pieces and ensure they match the number on the bag
- C**lean or wipe the toys
- C**heck the condition of the toy and bag if any action is required bring it to the attention of the coordinator when you return your toys.



KNOX AND DISTRICT TOY LIBRARY INC.

Reg. No. A0016 089D
ABN 65 829 655 200

NEWSLETTER October 2002

A reminder that it is a member's responsibility to check that the requisite pieces are present *before* they borrow the toy. We have endeavoured to create more room where members can count their toys.

We would like to welcome all our members to the October edition of our newsletter. To all the new members that have joined us in the past few months, welcome, and if we can help you in any way, or answer any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Survey Results

Thank you to all the members who participated in the recent survey. The Committee members were very pleased with the high level of satisfaction of the members with our Toy Library. The results are summarized below:

Question 1: Since joining Knox Toy Library do you believe this has encouraged interaction with your child or children?

Excellent	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	N/A
30%	48%	20%	2%	0%	0%

Question 2: Do you find the continuity of the co-ordinator has increased the user friendliness of the service?

Excellent	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	N/A
35%	35%	10%	5%	0%	15%

Question 3: Have you found the advice on toy selection useful?

Excellent	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	N/A
23%	27%	15%	10%	0%	25%

Question 4: Are you happy with the communication that the Knox Toy Library has with you?

Excellent	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	N/A
58%	30%	10%	0%	0%	2%

Question 5: In general, are you happy with the service of the Knox Toy Library?

Excellent	Good	Adequate	Fair	Poor	N/A
73%	27%	0%	0%	0%	0%



Mission Statement

Knox and District Toy Library Inc. aims to support family interaction in the local community by providing a variety of fun, educational and age-appropriate toys for loan at an affordable rate to promote children's learning and development through play.

REMINDERS

- Toy Library is **NOT** open on Tuesday November 5th (Cup Day)
- It's Almost Christmas Party: Saturday November 30th
- Return of toy catalogues: Saturday November 9th
- Christmas Closure: Saturday December 14th
- Stocktake: January 3rd & 4th, January 17th & 18th

WORKING BEE
VOLUNTEERS
- required for Wed
30th Oct and 27th
Nov from 7:30 –
9:30pm. See Joy if
you can help.



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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
<http://www.vicnet.vic.au/~knoxtl>
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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We would like to thank the following organisations for their contributions to the Knox & District Toy Library.

- ❑ Knox City Council for the grant from the Community Development fund contributing to the paid coordinator.
- ❑ Barry Plant Doherty Rowville Lakes Shopping Centre for the advertisement board for the “It’s Almost Christmas Party”
- ❑ Sandra Tuck for extra colour photocopies of the Toy Library Brochure.



If you can help out the Toy Library in some way or would like to sponsor future newsletters please call Helen on 9764 3962

Thanks to Sue Burchill and Joe Germano who have volunteered to take home some wooden toys for refurbishment.

Cheque Presentation

On the evening of Wednesday 25th September our president Helen Pongracic and treasurer Bridget Smith attended a special presentation at the Knox Civic Centre. Here they received the cheque for funds requested from the Community Development Grant Fund for the second year of the paid coordinator project. Many thanks to Knox Council for their continued support of the Toy Library.



Anyone for a cuppa?

Are you interested in meeting other parents & letting the kids have a play. Why not join us for a social couple of hours at Planet Play (Cathies Lane, Wantirna), every 2nd Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm (next gathering 31st October). This has had a good response so far with quite a few parents getting to know each and the children having lots of fun.



Toy of the Month



With the introduction of new borrowing rights on 1st October 2002, now is the time to get to know our PUZZLE room on a more intimate level!! It may seem like a small room full of lots of bags, but please take the plunge, go in and have a look. There are puzzles for children of all ages. Whether it be Thomas the Tank to Dinosaurs or Fairies, be assured there is a puzzle in their for everyone.

Puzzles are grouped in degrees of difficulty and graded in the following categories:

- Easiest – from 18 months, up to 10 pieces, includes knob puzzles, each piece fits into its own space on the board
- Medium – from 2 ½ years, 10 to 15 pieces, includes non-interlocking pieces
- More Difficult – from 4 years, 15 pieces plus, includes split-level puzzles, the lowest rung has 30 plus pieces.

Jigsaw puzzles are important to:

- learn to match shape and colour;
- help memory e.g. by recognising the empty space and finding the correct puzzle piece;
- help visual-spatial skills e.g. the surrounding colours and shapes must be matched for a correct fit;
- encourage patience and concentration;
- encourage ‘scanning’ ability;
- give a feeling of satisfaction when the pieces slip into place;
- reward the puzzler with a sense of accomplishment – a completed picture;
- can be graded from easy to complex;
- indicate ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ to a child without a person having to correct;
- involve problem solving and thinking skills;
- encourage language and concepts (under, next to, big, small), with parental interaction; and
- encourage good organisation to decide where to start and how best to do the rest.



So try out some puzzles next time you visit!

It's Almost Christmas Party & Toy Library Open Day

Saturday 30th November 2002 12pm – 2pm

Open to members and non-members. Come and see the Toy Library. Join in the fun and festivities of our "It's Almost Christmas Party and Open Day". There will be lots of fun and excitement. Have your child's photo taken with Santa's Chief Elf. Post their wish list in our special Santa's letterbox.

Cost: Single child \$8
2 children \$12
3 or more children \$15



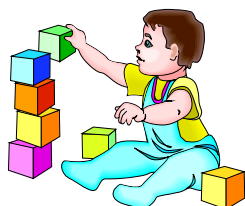
Cost includes:

- photo of child,
- letter to Santa (we provide printed letter and envelope),
- party food and drink,
- decorations and music,
- fun and creative activities

For more details call Vanessa 9758 8879



Please purchase your tickets by 23rd November by ringing Vanessa or seeing Joy or a committee member at one of the sessions.



Creative Play Toy Catalogue

The catalogues are available at sessions now. Have a look, there are some great games, puzzles and toys for all ages.

Orders are due back **9th November 2002** to Joy along with payment.

Collection of orders will be on the 14th

December 2002 between 10am – 11am.

That's Mine Labels

Label order forms are available at Toy Library Sessions.

Get ready for next year and order all your labels now.

There are labels for clothes or for lunchboxes, etc.



Milk Bottle Tops

For those members who buy Paul's milk, please save the specially marked bottle tops and put them in the box located at the Toy Library. Toy library will receive 10 cents for each top collected. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of new toys. Small boxes are available to take home for collecting. The next cash-in day is **12 November**. Please return any bottle tops before then. (The promotion runs till the end of 2003 and there are cash in days in May and November).

Party Pack

Don't forget our party pack when having a party at home. It includes Fire Truck, Tent & Tunnel, Roller-Coaster, Activity Gym and Whale Rocker. Cost is \$40 for members. Contact Bridget on 9758 4141 or see Joy at one of the sessions.

Great Result

The Oakleigh Variety Toy Warehouse fundraiser on September 11 raised \$425, which will go towards the purchase of new toys and puzzle.

Remember, there is a suggestion book if you think we need to purchase something in particular, or a suggestion box for general comments.

Profiles

Each newsletter we will feature a couple of committee members so that you get to know the people who run your Toy Library.

Paid Co-coordinator

Every time you go to Toy Library you will always see at least one familiar face – Joy Larter. Joy started with Toy Library on 1st June 2002 and has proved to be our biggest asset. Joy is married to Merv and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Joy is a trained infant teacher and is there to help you select toys to assist your child in his or her development (gross/fine motor, cognitive skills). She also makes innovative suggestions to ensure children get the most out of their selected toys. Please ask Joy to help with Toy selection. Joy can be contacted on 9729 2613.



President



Helen Pongracic has been involved with Toy Library for 5 years, the last two as President and the one before that as Secretary (and President by default). Helen and her husband, Mark Walton, have two boys – David aged 5½ and Michael 4, who both think its like Christmas every 2 weeks coming to Toy Library. Helen, who works 3 days a week, has been president during a time of significant change in the Toy Library but commented that “The committee has helped us

achieve a lot in the last two years and I thank them for their help. I think our biggest achievement over this period has been organising the paid co-ordinator’s position thereby providing consistency and continuity to toy library activities, and ensuring the continued viability of Knox and District Toy Library.”

Changes to Borrowing Rights – Reminder

A reminder that from October 1 2002, the borrowing rights will be
Single membership entitles the borrower to:

➤ 3 toys and 1 puzzle.

Family/Group membership entitles the borrower to:

➤ 6 toys and 2 puzzles.

Stocktake

The annual Stocktake will be held on Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th and Friday 17th & Saturday 18th January 2003. Volunteers are required so please put your name on the list at the desk. This counts towards a working bee.



CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Toy Library will close from Saturday December 14.
ALL toys MUST be returned to the Toy Library by this date. We will reopen on 1st February 2003.

The holiday season is a time when families are away and usually have toys from Christmas, so Toy Library services are not required. It's also difficult to find volunteers for the check-in and check-out desks. This is also chance for the Toy Library to do its annual stocktake and check the condition of the toys.

Please note: The committee members & the co-ordinator do not want toys returned at their doorsteps on Christmas Eve - as happened last year!



