

Fellow members of the Nunawading Toy Library, thank you for coming to the 2008 AGM. We thank you for taking the time to be here and your support.

I would like to begin today by thanking my fellow committee members who have each gone beyond the call on many occasions, and served this toy library with their time, resources and finances.

Secretary	Karen Son
Treasurer	Kathryn Goldsmith
IT/Data Entry	Bronwyn Mcllroy
Rosters	Kristen Potts
Toy Library Victoria Rep	Tanya Stavropoulos
Party.Pack Co-ordinator	Susan Stork-Finlay
Fundraising	Janelle Watson
Design/ Newsletter	Dianne Storrar

I would like to thank our team leaders for 2007, those who continued in the role, and those who joined:

Tanya Stavropoulos
Eldred Symons
Elise Watson
Joan Castle
Caroline Fraser
Maria Bardsley
Sam Oxley
Cheryl Connolly
Miranda Starkey
Jo Novak
Karen Son
Kristen Potts
Bronwyn Mcllroy

In particular, I would like to mention Susan Stork Finlay and Bronwyn Mcllroy who have sorted, labelled, cleaned, photographed and barcoded many of the sections of the toy library over the school holidays. Also Dianne Storrar, who is responsible for the fantastic design labels and work you see throughout the library.

As a Committee we have achieved many outcomes this year. These include:

- Transition to a completely computerised toy library with barcodes and your own wallet library card with the contact details (no big white cards!),
- Securing a Whitehorse Community Grant that provided approximately \$6900 towards the purchase of specialised toys for children with disabilities. These toys will be offered in the general collection for all our members to borrow.
- Securing a Victorian Small Equipment Grant to purchase chairs, complete the cupboards, purchase locks and a vacuum cleaner for the library.
- Securing a grant of \$250 from Bendigo Bank, Blackburn South to assist in building our access ramp.
- We also held a very successful Bunnings sausage sizzle this year which raised approximately \$1260, this money going towards drawing plans for our access ramp to our building.

- The chocolate drive raised \$2256 to go towards our rental.
- Purchasing \$566 worth of new toys for our collection using proceeds from the Toy Catalogue and Toy Warehouse fundraisers

There have been many changes in the running and structure of the Toy Library this year. I appreciate all members' patience with the implementation of some of these changes and hiccups that have occurred along the way.

In particular, I would like to highlight two decisions made by the committee this year:

1. The previous committee proposed Thursday night openings. This alternative opening time was put on hold as we were entering winter and so required adequate security lighting in the carpark to service members. We also did not have a sufficient number of team leaders available for this time slot.
2. Fundraising levy was withdrawn as a compulsory payment this year following difficulty implementing it equitably and the extra administration time required to follow up members who had not paid. It was also felt that membership fees should cover the core costs of running the toy library and that fundraising money should not be used to pay for items such as rent. It was agreed that fees would be increased to cover this shortfall in paying our core costs.

I plan to step down from President this year, but remain on the committee as a support person to assist in a smooth transition between committees. Working on the committee provides opportunities to influence how the toy library is run, meet new people and for those thinking about returning to work, gain some experience to add to your resume! **Can I be bold and ask you to consider volunteering for the committee.** The more people serving, the easier the job and more that can be achieved. Those of us choosing to stay on the committee are a great bunch, easy to work with and eager to see the toy library continue to serve the local community as one of the leading libraries.

In closing I would like to share my vision for the library over the next year. This year we committed to working towards gaining funding for an access ramp for prams / strollers and those using wheelchairs. We were unsuccessful in a number of grant applications to pay for the ramp, thus will have to fundraise. We want to expand our library and service to children living in the community who have a disability. As ongoing toy library supporters, you all understand the benefits of the library and access to new toys regularly. We would like to provide this opportunity to children with disabilities – particularly offering children toys that are not easily accessible and are expensive for parents to purchase. For those members who may not be aware, we were fortunate in 2006 to have the Noahs' Ark Toy Library and families join our Library, and part of our commitment was to increase the access and toys their children could use, but we need to provide an accessible venue for them and many members strollers and prams. **Will you join with us to achieve this goal? If you will, put your name down for a role on the NTL noticeboard and prepare for a fantastic, action packed year filled with great achievements and good fun.**

Thank you for your support of me as a president, I look forward to seeing many of you at the library in the weeks to come.

Proposed motions to be voted on at AGM

Following the withdrawal of the fundraising levy, the NTL committee deemed it necessary to increase membership fees to pay for our core costs. Our current core costs which include rent, insurance, Toy Libraries Victoria membership, audit fees, stationary and printing, consumables, maintenance, web site and computer maintenance, and toy replacement/ updating are \$7.500 a year. With approximately 160 families, this equates to \$47 per membership. Our proposal is to increase membership to \$50 for level one membership, \$60 for level 2, \$70 level 3 and \$125 Family Day Care. We will maintain our concession rate, and increase the concession to \$20 off the level chosen. Remember that Level 1 membership is free for members serving on committee or team leading [this is offered to 8 team leaders, cleaner, and 12 committee members]. The committee may also consider extra duties or tasks in lieu of fees for members.

As a committee we believe this is a competitive rate – other local toy library charges for basic membership are: Monash Toy Library \$60, Croydon Toy Library \$45, Kew \$55, Vermont South \$40.

As we have now increased our toy range, we propose that members may borrow an extra toy at each membership level. Thus you will be getting an old level 2 membership of 3 toys [was \$45] for the new level 1 membership at \$50.

The committee also presented the option of employing a paid co-ordinator to run our borrowing sessions each week. A paid co-ordinator would be a person who is a familiar and welcoming face at the toy library and who knows their members, is familiar with the toys and new procedures and can help run sessions more smoothly and effectively over the long term. Toy Libraries Victoria has received positive feedback from many toy libraries who have reported an increase in the number of members joining their library since employing a paid co-ordinator. The following is an example of some of the duties a part-time co-ordinator (employed for six hours per week under an award system) would perform at any given toy library:

Key responsibilities and duties

- Open and close the Toy Library for each session
- Talk with members & advise on toy selection & ways to encourage play
- Create a friendly atmosphere where members feel they belong
- Train and supervise roster volunteers
- Monitor computerised returns and borrowings
- Ensure all procedures are carried out correctly at each session
- Charge fines, deal with lost pieces of toys & with broken toys according to toy library policy
- Ensure that the Toy Library is kept clean and tidy
- Send out overdue notices to members with outstanding toys
- Educate new and existing members to become responsible borrowers
- Ask members for their assistance when requested by committee
- Develop knowledge of the toy collection & assist with identifying gaps for toy purchasing
- Co-ordinate with treasurer, roster and membership committee members
- Attend monthly committee of management meetings
- Attend annual stocktake in January

Croydon, Knox, Upwey, Springvale and Stonnington all have paid co-ordinators. Toy Library Victoria has advised NTL that a paid co-ordinator will cost each member \$43 if 160 members. The NTL committee is aware of the increase in fees, and thus had an article in Term 2 newsletter explaining the role, costs and a survey to ask members if they would pay \$60 or \$70 for level 1 membership. There was little response, but what was received was affirming. **The NTL committee decided that such a major change in fee structure and operation of the toy library would require a vote by**

the membership at the AGM. Thus the NTL committee recommend to employ a part-time paid toy library co-ordinator and at a cost of \$43 per membership.

Please remember when considering the increase in fees, that for the full cost price of 1 –2 toys, at Level 1 you are getting 12 months of borrowing 3 toys, 3 puzzles, 2 tapes, 2 games, 1 adult reference book per fortnight. This equates to 200 toys from a selection of over 1,000 toys for the price of 1-2 in the shops.... and the children return them after 2 weeks for new toys, instead of losing interest in the ones you bought after a couple of weeks play !!!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Nunawading Toy Library Committee would like to formally present the following motion for member vote:

1. That the Nunawading Toy Library annual membership fees cover the core costs of operating the toy library.
2. That Nunawading Toy Library employ a part-time paid co-ordinator and the costs are incorporated into annual membership fees.
3. That the number of toys for each level of membership will be increased by 1, thus
 - i. Level 1 membership = 3 toys, 3 puzzles, 2 tapes, 2 games, 1 adult reference book
 - ii. Level 2 membership = 4 toys, 5 puzzles, 2 tapes, 3 games, 1 adult reference book
 - iii. Level 3 membership = 5 toys, 7 puzzles, 2 tapes, 4 games, 1 adult reference book
 - iv. Level 4 /Family Day Care/Playgroups/ Creche/ Preschools/Afterschool Care/ =6 toys, 9 puzzles, 2 tapes, 5 games, 1 adult reference book
4. That from 1st March 2008, the membership fees will be to cover co-ordinator and core costs:
 - i. \$ 90.00 Level 1 membership
 - ii. \$ 100.00 Level 2 membership
 - iii. \$ 105.00 Level 3 membership
 - iv. \$ 160.00 Level 4 membership
 - v. \$ 60.00 Casual = 1 Term
 - vi. \$ 20.00 Party Pack per party booking

If recommendations 2 and 4 are not accepted,

5. That from 1st March 2008, the membership fees will be to cover core costs only:
 - i. \$ 50.00 Level 1 membership
 - ii. \$ 60.00 Level 2 membership
 - iii. \$ 70.00 Level 3 membership
 - iv. \$ 125.00 Level 4 membership
 - v. \$ 35.00 Casual = 1 Term
 - vi. \$ 20.00 Party Pack per party booking

If you have any questions about these recommendations or would like to discuss them prior to the AGM, please contact Charlinda Parsons on 0411 66 55 43.