

## MUCH ADO ABOUT BOOKS

12 September 2018

### Closing comments

Shirley Bateman, Melbourne Library Service

Thank you all for coming down to Geelong today for *Much ado about books*. It's been an incredible day.

Just to recap...

We began with **Sarah Bailey's** stirring keynote on the value of books, reading and libraries. She made us all proud of our profession.

IFLA President elect, **Christine Mackenzie**, told us about IFLA's global vision project and the international advocacy program.

The ePublishing panel enlightened us about the eLending landscape, the rise of eAudiobooks and the complexity of models of delivery. A big thank you to **Natalie Mason** for convening this panel.

**Sonya Tsakalakis** spoke about her bibliotherapy work and extolled the benefits of reading for mental health.

After lunch, the ever-inspiring **Kevin Hennah** encouraged all of us to make the most of our core business - books.

During the lightning talks, we heard about inventive, but practical, ways of promoting our collections and engaging our readers. Special thanks to **Anna Gebhardt** for convening this session.

And finally, **Matthew Jose** added to our TBR lists by letting us know about some amazing new books.

I'm sure you have many takeaways from *Much ado about books* but I wanted to close today by asking you to remember do one thing:

***Don't apologise for the books.***

When people talk about libraries, they often say:

***Libraries are more than just books.***

By using the word 'just', the message here is:  
that books are something to be embarrassed about;  
that books are not sexy;  
that books are not important.

It's as if books are making us irrelevant.

Of course libraries offer more than books. They are social hubs, centres of the community, the people's university. But we need to drop the word, '**just**' when we describe books and turn the sentence around.

So, next time you talk about your libraries, instead of 'more than just books', try using this sentence:

***Books and much more.***

By changing the language, we send a very different message.

Before we have our glass of sparkling, I wanted to say a huge thank you to the Dream Team working group who made this mini conference possible.

**From the Collections SIG:**

Sherrill Harvey from Geelong Regional Library Corporation  
Jane Grace from Mornington Peninsula Library Service  
Susan Thomson from Great Dandenong Libraries

**From the Reader Development SIG:**

Danielle Marie from Brimbank Libraries  
Julie Stevens from City of Ballarat Libraries