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Help create the 'Children's Library' of NSW

2/4/2019

The State Library of NSW is calling for public support to help give young readers their very own place to call home at Australia's oldest library.

On any given day, the State Library provides thousands of people with a warm and welcoming place to read, research, think, create and socialise.

According to State Librarian John Vallance: "It's about time that this Library provided a dedicated area just for young readers (up to 16 years) and families, designed around the discovery and enjoyment of books and reading."

"We're hoping the community gets behind us to help make this possible," says Dr Vallance.

"It will mean that young readers, for the first time, will have a special space for them brimming with the best works written and published in Australia, as well as a selection of classic works from overseas.

"I'm on a mission to inspire a lifelong love of books and libraries in everyone, so we need to continue designing our services around the needs of all our readers."

The new Children's Library will be located in the State Library's Macquarie St Building.

Philippa Stevens, who manages the State Library's Bashir and Mitchell Library Reading Rooms, says the Children's Library is a much-anticipated new service.

"The Children's Library will be a wonderful addition to the John B. Fairfax Learning Centre and Family space which currently caters for our schools audience and early learners. In this new area, children of all ages will be able to freely explore hundreds of books on the shelves, sit or lie down and just enjoy reading.

"As a librarian myself, I cannot think of a better way to wholeheartedly welcome young readers into the State Library, she added.





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The State Library holds one of the most significant collections of children's literature in Australia, as well as the manuscripts and illustrations of literary greats like May Gibbs, Pixie O'Harris, Norman Lindsay, Ethel Turner, Ruth Park, CJ Dennis, Alison Lester and Bronwyn Bancroft, to name a few.

"This collection is an invaluable resource for children's writers and scholars of children's literature," says Dr Vallance.

The Children's Library will hold modern editions by our most celebrated authors. Visitors will also get to see examples of their original work from time to time in the Library's galleries. Ethel Turner's original *Seven Little Australians* manuscript is on display until 5 May in the Michael Crouch Family Galleries, which opened in October last year. And a major May Gibbs exhibition is scheduled to open in December this year.

The Children's Library will complement the dynamic programming offered by the State Library's Learning team, including curriculum linked learning programs, tailored programs for pre-schoolers and school holiday activities.

Help the State Library of NSW bring the Children's Library to life in 2019! Donations will go towards the creation of this new library and acquiring new works.

For more information visit: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/appeal

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