

BOOKS GALORE, TOP CLASS AUTHORS

The fame of the Ex Libris Port Fairy Book Fair is growing each year. Come the first weekend in September, the Reardon Theatre in Bank Street will be jam-packed with books as a record number of second-hand and antiquarian booksellers attend the 10th annual book and literature festival.

Local book lovers will recognise some well-known names from the antiquarian book world - Barbara Hince from Kenneth Hince Old and Rare Books, Barbara Russell from Vintage Cookbooks, Pamela Bakes from Page Two and a host of others from metropolitan and regional Victoria.

The Book Fair will be a bonanza for anyone who has been searching for that special out-of-print book. If the sellers don't have it with them, they'll be able to register your interest and search out the book for you.

In addition to the specialists there'll be a chance to pick up some bargain books from Ex Libris' own stall of donated books and from other local sellers.

Supporting the book sale is a magnificent programme of author sessions. Featured writer this year is Sonya Hartnett who has won international awards and has been shortlisted for the Age Book of the Year Award which will be announced later this month at the Melbourne Writers Festival. She'll be joined by a number of other authors, editors, illustrators and cartoonists, including some from the south west region.

Other regular features of the Book Fair are the popular Comedy Debate between two Warrnambool secondary schools, the light-hearted Barbara Cartland Hurl, the Yellow Book Road, literary dinners and book-related art exhibitions.

The full programme for this year's Port Fairy Ex Libris Book Fair is now available in local libraries, bookshops and Tourist Information Centres, or it can be downloaded from the internet at Ex Libris website at www.exlibris.port-fairy.com