

HIGH PROFILE GUESTS FOR TENTH BOOK FAIR

Port Fairy's Ex Libris is celebrating its tenth Book Fair and planning for the September weekend is well advanced.

Ex Libris President Beryl Franklin said that, to mark the anniversary, some really special guests will attend this year's event.

Renowned novelist Sonya Hartnett, who writes for adults and adolescents, heads the list. In 2008 she won the Astrid Lindgren Prize - the world's most prestigious and financially rewarding prize for children's literature. She has also won many Australian awards. At the age of thirteen, Sonya wrote her first novel, *Trouble All the Way*, and it was published when she was fifteen.

Accompanying Sonya is Dmetri Kakmi, her editor from Penguin Books, who spoke memorably at last year's Ex Libris. Now his book, *Mother Land*, published also in England and Turkey, is shortlisted for a NSW Premiers Literary Award.

Bruce Pascoe, another award-winning writer, has been teacher, farmer, fisherman, barman, fence contractor, lecturer, Aboriginal language researcher, editor and anthologist. His 20 plus books include *Shark*, *Ruby-eyed Coucal*, *Ocean*, *Nightjar* and *Convincing Ground*. He is possibly best known as co-publisher, with partner Lyn Harwood, of *Australian Short Stories*. Bruce's new book, *Bloke*, was published this year.

Other guests booked for the Ex Libris weekend are Kate Cole-Adams, Allan and Wendy Scarfe and a number of cartoonists, including Robert Gott, crime writer and creator of *The Naked Man* cartoons.

Ex Libris has also attracted several new specialist booksellers to the grand sale of second-hand books in the Reardon Theatre. These include Barbara Hince - antique & second-hand Australian & local history, literature and art books, the Book Grocer, Vintage Cookbooks - collectable books & ephemera on food and wine, Time Books and Denise Jepson, as well as long-time Ex Libris supporters Murray Simper, Brian & Betty Lacy, Don & Jean King and Christine Symons.

Mrs Franklin said the committee appreciates the generosity of local people who donated valuable books for the Ex Libris stall and will gratefully accept more donations. In all, the second-hand books available this year should be huge in quality and variety, she said. Last year's innovation, the Yellow Book Road down Bank St. to the Theatre, will feature again in this year's programme.

Children will also be well catered for at this year's Book Fair with storytelling, making books and other activities.

Other fun events over the Ex Libris weekend include the light-hearted Barbara Cartland Hurl where contestants display dramatic talent in reading a passage from "the dame", and athletic ability in hurling the book as far as possible. A humorous caption writing competition for a *Naked Man* cartoon should also excite patrons.



Moyne Mayor Ken Gale demonstrates his athletic ability at last year's Barbara Cartland Hurl

For further information about this year's Ex Libris Port Fairy Book Fair visit the web site www.exlibris.port-fairy.com/ which is continually updated. The full programme will be available at the end of July, Mrs Franklin said.