

**JANUARY
2025**

**THE CARMELITE
LIBRARY**
Newsletter



**DEAR FRIENDS OF THE
CARMELITE LIBRARY,**

As we embark on a new year at the [Carmelite Library](#), we want to take a moment to thank everyone for their support and encouragement in 2024. I would like to especially thank the members of the Interim Library Board, staff at the Carmelite Provincial Office, Library Assistant Ben Ross, Librarian Sandra McDowell, and library staff at Mannix Library (Huw, Annalise and Lisa), who all provided a range of library services during the first 9 months of 2024.

Thank you as well to the patrons who come regularly to the library on Tuesdays, those who have volunteered or paid to become community members, and those who have generously supported us financially by purchasing items at our book sale, or via one-off, or regular donations. Visitors engage with the library in a variety of ways, and the library welcomes all, whether you are a scholar, a seeker, or don't quite fit into either category. Patrons have contributed to stimulating conversations in the library space, attended events, used the library to facilitate their research and writing projects, explored our website and engaged with our collections. Without everyone's presence and encouragement we would not have been able to accomplish all that we achieved in 2024. Your valuable support is an inspiration to library staff and contributes to the building of a vibrant Carmelite Library community. We look forward to seeing you when **the library reopens on Tuesday 28th January 2025.**

*The Carmelite Library Team
Kerrie Burn & Ben Ross*



A B C... SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK

All responses to the three items below are due by **Friday 7th February 2025**. The person who submits the best response in each category, will receive a voucher for 2 coffees from a local Middle Park Cafe. Please send all responses to librarian@carmelitelibrary.org

A. What does the Carmelite Library mean to you?

Asking questions about a library can help us to imagine and plan for its future and prioritise the aspects of a library and its services that are most valued. We are therefore asking you to take part in a very brief survey by answering the following questions:

1. What do you like best about the Carmelite Library? (prioritise up to three areas)
2. What would you like to change about the Carmelite Library? (prioritise up to three areas)
3. Do you have any suggestions for how we might grow the Carmelite Library community and/or improve the library's financial bottom line?

Library staff will review all feedback. In a future newsletter we will let you know what we heard (without identifying individual responses) and what action we hope to take in response to everyone's feedback.

B. Library Exhibitions

Do you have an idea for an exhibit or display using the library collections? We are accepting proposals for exhibition ideas in 2025.



C. Library Lovers' Day

As well as being St Valentine's Day, 14th February is also the day that we celebrate Library Lovers' Day. We'd love to receive feedback from everyone about what they particularly love about the Carmelite Library. Responses can be as simple or as creative as you like. So, write a few lines, tell us a story, create a collage, or craft a love sonnet to the library. Responses will be added to a Library Lovers Display in the library.



LIBRARY UPDATES

We will kick start the year with another bumper **book sale**. Sources include unrequired donations and duplicates. Moving these items on is all part of library's ongoing transformation process. All books are initially priced at \$5 each.

The initial agreement between the Carmelites and the University of Divinity to manage library services, concluded at the end of 2024. Conversations continue as to how both may continue to collaborate on mutually beneficial projects. The Carmelite Provincial Council met in early December, and considered a report prepared by the library's Interim Board, which outlined its recommendations for the future management of the library. The Provincial Council will be reflecting further on the future of the library with a view to formulating a response at their meeting in March 2025.



SUPPORTING THE LIBRARY

If you are receiving this newsletter and aren't already a member of the Carmelite Library, we invite you to consider taking out library membership. This is a great way to show your support for the library and to help ensure that the library can grow and continue to be a resource for the community.

Thanks to all those who have recently renewed their membership.

A membership form is available on the Carmelite Library LibGuide – [Access and Membership](#) page. It can be returned to the library in person or completed and emailed to librarian@carmelitelibrary.org.

Another way to support the library is by making a donation. The Carmelite Library has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status which means that all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

To donate via Direct Bank Deposit:

Bank Name: National Australia Bank

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 580 747 038

Account Name: Carmelite Memorial Library of Spirituality

Reference: Please include your full name and 'Library donation'.

If you email details of your gift to librarian@carmelitelibrary.org a receipt will be issued in your name.

Thank you for your support of the Carmelite Library



COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT

In the last newsletter we celebrated the Carmelite Library having received a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia. The grant has provided \$7,550 to support ongoing work associated with the preservation and cataloguing of the Carmelite Library's rare books collection. Specifically, the grant has enabled the purchase of materials so we can appropriately store fragile rare books in archival quality boxes, as well as safely display them. The grant has funded equipment that will allow library staff to monitor temperature and humidity conditions, and items to help maintain more stable environmental conditions in the areas where the rare books are located. A museum-quality vacuum and other items required for specialised cleaning have been purchased, as well as pest-control products to assist with the eradication of pests like silverfish. Part of any preservation project includes treatment for mould, pest damage, etc. and making repairs where possible.

The grant has also enabled the library to purchase items for a disaster recovery kit. This ensures that equipment and materials are immediately available should a disaster event such as fire or flood ever occur. It provides resources that can be used in an emergency to deal quickly with items, minimising potential for damage, and to make sure staff are kept safe while working in potentially unsafe conditions. Having a disaster management kit is regarded as best practice, and part of a library's broader disaster management plan.

Many rare books in the collection have not yet been catalogued, have only minimal catalogue records and/or have been inaccurately catalogued in the past. The ultimate goal is to create a definitive list of all rare books held by the Carmelite Library, which are all catalogued to a high standard. This will in turn enhance their discoverability via Trove and WorldCat.

The National Library of Australia provides a range of training opportunities for grant recipients, including an online Learning Hub with content created by experienced conservators, curators and technicians. In return, the library will need to provide interim and final reports in 2025 for how funds have been used to progress the goals of the project outlined in the grant application.

What the grant has not provided is the funds for the specialised staff required to undertake the rare books cataloguing and associated preservation activities. Current staff will do as much as they are able given their limited time and resources.



VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

The library staff love getting to know our patrons, both familiar faces and new visitors. Whether you drop by on Tuesdays or reach out via email at

librarian@carmelitelibrary.org

We're always happy to chat and help you find your next great read. We welcomed many new members in 2024 and invite others to consider taking out membership at the Library.

Email is preferred when contacting the library. This enables staff to respond to your queries even when the library is closed.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help out at the Working Bee on Tuesday 21st January, to prepare for the library's re-opening in 2025.

If you are interested in volunteering at a future event or during regular opening hours, please email librarian@carmelitelibrary.org.

We would love to hear from you!

Each month the Carmelite Library hosts various groups associated with the [Carmelite Centre Melbourne](#).

Visit the Carmelite Centre Melbourne website to view their [program of events and activities](#) for 2025.



LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP & BORROWING RIGHTS

By becoming a member of our library, you gain exclusive access to a treasure trove of knowledge that will enrich both your mind and soul. You are welcome to sign up at any time!

Members can then borrow up to 10 items from the library collection for a period of 3 weeks.

While onsite all patrons also have access to the online resources available through the [University of Divinity Library Hub](#).

Free membership is available to Carmelites, Lay Carmelites, and students and staff of the University of Divinity.

Borrowing Rights:

- Staff and HDR students of the University of Divinity can borrow up to **25 items for 10 weeks**.
- Students and Carmelite members can borrow up to **20 items for 3 weeks**.

2025 Community Member Pricing

- Membership: \$100 for 12 months from day of joining.
- Concession card holders: \$50 for 12 months.
- External members can borrow up to **10 items for 3 weeks**.



STAY CONNECTED

2025 Opening Hours

Tuesday
10am – 3pm

Location

214 Richardson Street, Middle Park
Victoria 3206 Australia

Contact Details

Email: librarian@carmelitelibrary.org

Phone: (03) 9682 8553

Previous issues of the [Carmelite Library Newsletter](#)
are available on the [Carmelite Library LibGuide](#)

The Carmelite Library holds Australia's finest collection of books in the area of
spirituality and mysticism.

Learn more by clicking the links below.

[SEARCH THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE](#)

[CARMELITE LIBRARY WEBSITE](#)

[CARMELITE LIBRARY NEWS ARCHIVE](#)

[CARMELITE LIBRARY FACEBOOK](#)