Smiths Alternative Bookshop

ZINE

#1

(this is not a hash tag for twitter but a shortened way of saying number one – ok?)

This is our very own zine. It contains poems, signs from the shop, comments, information from the website and exerts from our operational manual.

Can you pick the subliminal message hidden in the comments below?

Canberra's big shopping centres are all the same, buy books , reading is good for you, buy books , drugs are bad, buy books , smoking kills, buy books , governments often have no idea, buy books , big banks are blood sucking parasites of society, buy books , the people who work in banks are fine people it is the senior management of big banks who aren't, buy books , big retail developers aren't very nice, buy books , most people on the planet are poor, buy books , most people on the planet are nice enough, buy books , love hurts sometimes, buy books , climate change is real, buy books , woman and men are different, buy books , kids are our future, buy books , rap music is awful, buy books , vegetarians are not weird, buy books , it doesn't matter what is causing climate change what matters is what we are doing about it, buy books , Gay and Lesbian people are not always obvious, buy books , racism exists in every society, buy books , glass is often fragile, buy books , coffee is good for you unless you drink a lot of it, buy books , chocolate is the way to a woman's heart, buy books , sex sells, buy books , the Canberra Roller Derby is awesome, buy books , Antarctica is very cold, buy books , smiths alternative bookshop is also awesome, buy books , people from Belconnen look down their noses on people from Tuggeranong, buy books , people from central Canberra and Weston Creek don't care about Belconnen or Tuggeranong, buy books , Queanbeyan should be visited at least once a year, buy books , Pauline Hanson wasn't that clever but struck a chord with other not clever people, buy books , folk music will always have a place, buy books , James Joyce is awesome but cannot be understood by many people, buy books , Shakespeare was very impressive, buy books , Tim Winton is very, very Australian, buy books , never trust big business, buy books , most people don't like the Australian Taxation Office but it is actually pretty good, buy books , the Chairman of the ACCC has no idea about small business, buy books , a well rounded

community has lots of independent shops and cafes, buy books , an interesting community has strip shopping, buy books , Canberra is not designed that well, buy books , Koalas are cute but only to look at, buy books , toy poodle crosses make excellent pets, buy books , the Wig and Pen pub is the place to drink beer, buy books , being really old appears to be difficult, buy books , teenagers can be hard work but very interesting, buy books , possessive parents are asking for trouble, buy books , glandular fever is awful and should be avoided, buy books , Buddhism sells very well, buy books , books about conservative politicians do not sell well, buy books , books about kites make people happy, buy books , bread and cheese with a green salad makes a nice meal, buy books , a meat pie at a footy game is pretty good, buy books , life has ups and downs, buy books , enjoy the ups, buy books , manage the downs, buy books , watch out for too much chemicals in your food, buy books , if you buy books from the internet then society will fail, buy books , broccolini is better than broccoli, buy books , Australia has excellent food and restaurants, buy books , George Bush was an idiot, buy books , Winston Churchill had a full life, buy books , Leonard Cohen is the greatest poet ever, buy books , poetry is making a comeback, buy books , tree houses are cool, buy books , hairdressing salons are nice places to be, buy books , good friends care about your well being, buy books , fathers are also important, buy books , a yo-yo fad hasn't been seen in many years, buy books , fast food, to be honest, is not that healthy, buy books , eat a piece of fruit every day, buy books , mangoes are excellent fruit, buy books , violence is bad, buy books , a good movie is worth seeing, buy books , special effects can be awesome, buy books ,

What is it about *Tree Houses* and *Kites*? We sell a lot of tree house and Kite books. You see - they seem to make people feel good.







We have on this table here

Local Zines and Art House Magazines
from Canberra and from other places.

See what is emerging from the clever arty people who have managed to block out the destructive thoughts and processes imposed upon us all by governments, banks, shopping centre landlords and “the System”.

Includes some poems, some prose, some paintings, some photos, some pictures, some thoughts, some stuff.

The Twelve Days of Xmas - Book Genres

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my book shop sent to me
Twelve emerging authors,
Eleven graphic comics,
Ten foreign classics,
Nine sci fi sagas,
Eight travel tales,
Seven Asian cookbooks,
Six horror stories,
Five mysteries,
Four of Shakespeare's Sonnets,
Three dictionaries,
Two Crime Novels
And a book about Philosophy

The Twelve Days of Xmas - Authors

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my book shop sent to me
Twelve of Shakespeare's dramas,
Eleven Carre thrillers,
Ten Steinbeck classics,
Nine Tolkien sagas,
Eight Mem Fox tales,
Seven Pilger Tirades ,
Six Fulton Cookbooks,
Five Christie Mysteries,
Four John Donne poems,
Three of Oscar Wilde's,
Two Bronte Novels,
And a book by Murakami!

The Twelve Days of Xmas
Canberra Writers

On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my book shop sent to me
Twelve Canberra Writers,
Eleven Kituai tankas,
Ten Geoff Page classics,
Nine Barrow guide books
Eight Tully tirades,
Seven John Murray tales,
Six Hal Judge things,
Five books by Halligan,
Four Frank Cain exposes,
Three of Sara Dowse's,
Two Johnston Novels,

And a book from Smiths Alternate-eeeeee! (Bookshop)

We wish you a merry BookMas
We wish you a merry BookMas
We wish you a merry BookMas
And a happy new read

Jingle Books Jingle Books Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to read in a one-horse open sleigh – Hey!

Reading around Canberra

Well I've read Steinbeck in Duffy and Asimov in Amaroo
I've sat in Wanniassa and read some Sun-Tzu

And then got high on Capote in the Waramanga sun
And walked in Leafy Forrest listening to the poems of John Donne

The made up words of James Joyce I finally understood
While sitting in the bar of the Inn at far Charnwood

And the Haiku of Basho and the Sonnets of Brooke
Were covered while riding my bike in Aranda, Macquarie and Cook,

Murakami and Kafka made Fyshwick less crass
And the Brothels of Mitchell would have pleased Herman Hesse

In the Nobel worthy novels of our own Patrick White
The parliamentary triangle would have been quite alright

F Scott Fitzgerald is popular in Swinger Hill
And if you read in Woden Hospital you'll probably need a pill

Gardening books are all the go in new suburbs south & north
Conder, Crace and Nicholls all have flowers bursting forth

The good folk of Turner and Lyneham all like to read what's cool
The latest poems from Leonard Cohen will always make them drool

And if you ever stop in Acton or below Black Mountain Tower

The CSIRO and ANU have plenty of books on Flowers

Crime fiction is most popular in the AFP HQ in Braddon
But nothing will beat a political treatise in the Shops in Central Fadden

Children's books go very well in primary schools that haven't closed
and you'll get a good airport read in beautiful Pialligo

But when all is said and done one thing is plainly true
The people of the ACT are book lovers through and through

We sell coffee and tea!

So you can refresh, regroup or get your caffeine fix while you browse!

And if you buy more than $75.05 worth of books you'll get a free coffee or tea, or a refund on one you've just had!

So, here are the conditions - normal size coffee or tea, maximum of one cup per customer per day, doesn't apply if you ask for a discount, no cheating in some way and definitely no spilling on any of the books – if you do you'll have to buy that book. Sorry…….....

Carbon Sequestration

(also known as "Carbon Storage")

Smiths Alternative Bookshop has the latest in easy to use and maintain carbon storage devices for use in the home and without the need for government approval.

These devices store carbon in a steady state for extremely long periods (unless the device is burnt* or buried, in which case the carbon will be either rapidly or slowly released into the environment). Many people call these devices "books". These "books" are multi faceted as they have other storage capacities, they can also store information including data, fictional accounts of events and lives, history, politics, spiritual guidance, travel information, business advice and general opinions.

So purchase a "book" and save the environment by sequestering some carbon as well as informing or entertaining yourself, and others. Or better still purchase a lot of books and develop a large carbon sequestration chamber of your own, also know as a “bookshelf”. If your storage facility is large enough it may be called a "library". Perhaps you could eventually sell carbon credits through the emissions trading scheme?

* We are very opposed to the burning of books. History shows that people who burn books are likely to also undertake mass murder, genocide, general destruction of most things as well as suppression of free thinking. These people have also contributed to the decline of our environment.

Smiths Alternative Bookshop

Policy Statement

Responsible Service of Books

We will sell a book to any body who would like to buy one.

We may also sell a book to any person who doesn't want one.

We may provide a free cup of coffee to any person who buys more than $500 worth of books.

We will not sell a book to anyone who isn't old enough or bright enough, in our opinion, to understand that book.

We will serve customers of any religion, race, sexual persuasion or political calling as long as they have money or a credit card that works.

We will never divulge to any person information about the purchases made by any customer (actually we've never had anyone interested in what any other person has bought so this statement is a bit of a waste really, but it looks good).

We will not judge any customer by the books they purchase (although we may at times raise an eyebrow or stifle a titter).

We will not serve alcohol to any person that is incredibly drunk but we may sell them as many books as we can.

We will not serve John Howard unless he has a lot of money and he apologises for his lack of support to the book industry and to small business in general – the Bastard!

We believe that large shopping malls are disgusting and are destroying society as we know it so we will not sell books that are in any way positive about or supportive of shopping malls or shopping mall owners.

Some signs

Sorry no coffee because our Barista has just had to duck out. (A bit sad and unbusiness like isn't it but what can you do when a life crisis comes along except deal with it, if this was a big business we would just sack the person but, thankfully, we aren't)

And we can make an instant coffee, or a cup of tea or you could have some free water? Or if you can make your own!

Big book brother is watching you!
Yes, yes, yes we know it sucks but some people steal



Wireless available here

But you must buy a coffee or a book to get the password!
And you cannot download porn or large files - Yeah we know that sucks but what can you do when you live in a rotten filthy two faced material world

We hunt, chase, stalk and pursue books no matter how commonplace, rare, dangerous or bizarre.

Endorsements from customers

"One visit and I achieved enlightenment" – The Dalai lama

"I wish I had read books from here before my last election" – John Howard

"I hate this bookshop!!" – Pauline Hanson

"These books will help resolve the global financial crisis and create a new world order based on Smiths Bookshop and quality" – Barak Obama

"Ich bein ein Smithleiner" – John F Kennedy

"This bookshop is more tempting than any pole dancing girl in any bar ever" – Kevin Rudd

How to have smart happy children – easy – read to them all the time and at every opportunity! When?

- At the exact moment of conception
- During pregnancy
- During childbirth
- When they are babies
- When they are toddlers
- When they are not toddlers and not teenagers
- When they are teenagers
- When they are all grown up you may not read to them but you can buy them books
- Whenever they are sad or happy or feeling unloved or rotten for some reason or on top of the world. Read them something perhaps a Haiku?

How to have clever older parents who have a decreased chance of Alzheimer's and stuff like that. Get them books at every opportunity.

- On birthdays and wedding anniversaries
- During divorces if one happens (sad but …)
- When you see a book you know they would like
- To help with travel
- Retirement ideas
- Death of loved ones and close friends
- Moving from the family house
- When they are ready to read to their grandchildren (if they get any)

DEAR AMAZING DEMI-GOD LIKE WORKERS OF SABS – PLEASE PERUSE THE FOLLOWING AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AS THOUGH YOUR JOBS AND THE MANAGEMENT'S HOUSE DEPENDED ON IT -

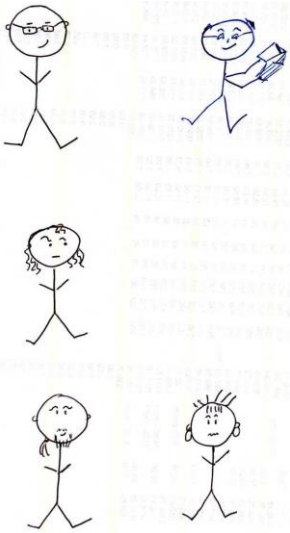
- TIDY UP AS YOU GO ALONG
  - WHEN YOU GO HOME GET RID OF YOUR COFFEE CUPS AND OTHER RUBBISH
- NO EAR CLEANING AT THE COUNTER
- LOOK AT CUSTOMERS WHEN SERVING
  - WATCH OUT FOR THIEVES – IF PEOPLE KNOW YOU ARE LOOKING UP EVERY NOW AND THEN THEY WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO KNOCK STUFF OFF
- CHECK THE DAILY TASK LIST AND DO THEM
  - CUSTOMERS ARE GODS EXCEPT FOR THE ONES THAT ARE ARSEHOLES (VERY VERY SMALL MINORITY), THEY BUY BOOKS
  - IF YOU HAVE A MINUTE GO AND TIDY THE SHELVES
  - RETURNS ARE REALLY REALLY REALLY REALLY REALLY IMPORTANT
  - CHECKING ON SPECIAL ORDERS IS REALLY IMPORTANT AS WELL AS POLITE (OUR CUSTOMERS ASKED US TO DO SOMETHING SO WE SHOULD?)
  - IF YOU HAVE TO TALK TO SOME PASSING FRIEND CAN YOU DUST OR TIDY THE SHELVES AS WELL (MAYBE THEY CAN HELP?)
- WE ARE FABULOUS

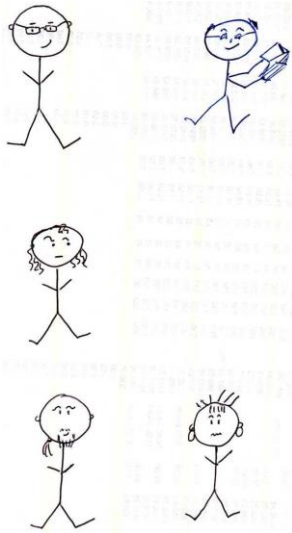
WANT TO KNOW WHEN WE ARE HAVING OUR BOOK LAUNCHES AND EVENTS?



YES!

Ok, please give us your email address.
Would you like to be on our catalogue list?
If yes then please give us your email address.
If not then please continue browsing!





It will never cease to amaze how people from around here are so clever, thoughtful, profound, good looking, diligent, imaginative, focused, brainy, creative, inspired, opinionated, well dressed, gorgeous, and hard working









You can have your own window display!

You can select and display the books you like and make your own comments. Gardening, politics, fiction, culture, a mixture or even your favourite books from home (we promise to give them back).

Express your opinion or beliefs or your favourites for all the world to see (well at least that part of the world that walks past this window). Use your real name or make one up eg The Hammer.

Ask us. The only thing we will do is make sure that there is no slanderous or libellous comments (Or support for right wing fascist bastards.)

As an example of what you can do one person was dumped by her man (and badly so, with no compassion or humanity – the bastard!)

So, she did a window display about love and suffering and how you get over it – eventually and she had books about all that in the window and also a quote from a song:

Love hurts, love scars Love wounds and mars
Any heart, not tough Nor strong enough
To take a lot of pain Take a lot of pain
Love is like a cloud Holds a lot of rain

Sad but true – sigh.

As Leonard Cohen may see the issue

by Peter J Strong

If you cannot bear to think, if you do not wish to choose

let a stranger select your make-up and another select your shoes

and do without the sky and wind and know not when it rains

see no blind beggars and hear no mention of their pain

see the same old same old every day and the same old every night

constantness is nice for some and there is no cause to fight

and we all become that citizen that is made just to consume

everything is all the same, the goods, the lights, the room

and in the end we'll be destroyed not by bombs or calamity

we'll be ruined by our sameness and our long stemmed vanity

So rejoice before the altar of mediocrity

and sing the songs we know so well and drink that ersatz tea

and park our cars and pay our dues

and test the rouge and the sugared perfumes

and let's all come when they say come all

and ruin every soul at the shopping mall.

Smiths Alternative Bookshop

Executives from the finance sector getting a free ride on the back of small retailers

Why is it that bank executives and those involved with the finance sector receive huge salaries while small business receives no compensation for collecting their fees?

Small businesses already collect and send to the ATO the greater part of all taxes raised. But through poor government planning small business owners also spend a lot of time collecting and distributing superannuation payments on behalf of superfunds and they do this free of charge. They are forced to do so by government regulation.

Small business owners in retail and hospitality in particular have to maintain a high number of records and send cheques off to many different funds. Why do small business owners, individuals trying to make a living, have to also make the life of superfunds easier at no cost to the funds themselves?

This seems somewhat unfair and flies in the face of the behaviour of the finance sector who charge for every little thing. The reality is that the finance sector makes huge profits, the dividends of their share holders grows, the returns for the investors increases and the pay of the big finance fat cats gets fatter and fatter.

In the last decade small retailers have decreased their profit margins as the larger retailers take a bigger share of the market – small business needs to be free to manage their business and regrow and should not be asked to contribute to the coffers of the finance industry without compensation.

Small business should not be an unpaid collection agent for superfunds. Small business should be taken out of the superannuation payment process altogether or receive 10% of all super contributions they collect.

There I said it.

KPIs - for staff, workers and employees of Smiths Alternative Bookshop

- **Turn up to work roughly on time**
- **Shower and dress before coming to work**
- **55% success rate in pleasantly greeting customers**
- **Answer the phone within 20 rings**
- **Offend less than 3 customers per day**
- **Put books away eventually**
- **30% success rate in putting books in the right place on the shelves and in alphabetical order**
- **Sell at least 3,000 books per day**
- **Sell at least 4,000 coffees per day**
- **Achieve the correct work/life/sleep/sex/ drinking/eating/reading/arguing/travelling balance in the following order - Work 30%, Life 1%, sleep 3%, sex & eating 18%, drinking & arguing 10%, reading 30%, travelling 6%**
- **Make at least 3 negative comments a day about big malls, the government, banks and/or USA, China, UK or Queensland**
- **Treat owner of shop like a God (and NOT like an Indian God but like a western scary God)**
- **Pander to ego of shop owner**
- **Laugh at shop owner's jokes**
- **Nod wisely at shop owner's deep meaningful statements**

Remember we are here to help the customer and enjoy ourselves, and if you don't you will suffer!!!

Poems about Smiths Alternative Bookshop

We had a competition and here are some of the entries. O one won because they were all too good.

my nose finds the books
eyes ears all the senses alive
drama, surprise anger fact

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books lined up waiting
to battle boredom
or to crush ignorance and shackle worry
they are never rushed, not in a hurry
maybe they will ease the passing of fear and pain
perhaps just entertain
they wait patient silent to overwhelm prejudice
they will rise up against the palaces of sameness
heroes waiting for their time to rise up
waiting for the one that needs them to be their hero

Our customers
They enter through a narrow door
bored, stressed, unmotivated, worried
happy, mindless, focussed, drugged, seeking something, killing time, unhurried
driven for an answer, looking for questions, sad
being good or being bad
all of the above or none but no matter they are
used to seeing the same colours and hearing the same music,
seeing the same old that the same shops always have
then strangely after a small time
their eyes start to shine
in a different light something is woken
surprise around this corner or behind this shelf
challenge on this table annoyance on another
provocation on the next
laughter on a piece of cardboard

relaxed and sated or more hungry
perhaps empty handed but not empty minded
they leave

---

books are all jumbled some facing out
genres are different creating doubt
then discovered to great joy
this isn't a franchise with it's predictable ploy
it's an old fashioned place with angst and some fun
and titles unheard of that some folk would shun
but I love the difference the challenge it gives
in this bookshop original thought still lives

Fuck every bookshop that isn't like Smiths
Because Smiths is the only one that creates bliss
The others are shithouse and have predictable crap
That end up creating an intellectual trap
But Smiths has real books that make you think
The other bookshops?, Well they just fucking stink.

(Except for other independent bookshops like Daltons and Electric Shadows etc – we really mean the shops in the shopping centres and the chains! But we also like the people that own the local Collins, so if you HAVE to go to a chain, go to Collins – is that OK?)

The wordy heroes
books lined up waiting
to battle boredom
to crush ignorance
and shackle worry
they are never rushed, not in a hurry
they may ease the passing of fear and pain
may just entertain
they wait patient silent to crush prejudice
they will raze the palaces of sameness
heroes waiting to rise and kill the foe
waiting for the one that needs them to be their wordy wordy hero

Do books matter?

As we travel through life, there are certain books that mould and remould us, and though we may not have read the books for a long time, we remain, nonetheless their work.

No book ever crosses the path of our destiny without leaving some mark upon it forever.

Sometimes books influence our beliefs or imbue us with so much knowledge that our intellect is forever shaped.

More important to me are those books that provide a mystic transport to another reality.

Equally important are those books that give pure druglike pleasure and relaxation, allowing us to escape reality in times of stress.

Whether they are profoundly philosophical or provide an endless adventure, books provide us with a means and system to leave the prison of our aloneness and enter alternate worlds of infinite possibility.

What does a person's favourite books tell us about that person? Huh?

Our book Genres

SEX & RELATIONSHIPS

MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT

LESBIAN FICTION

GAY FICTION

ENVIRONMENT

POLITICS

EASTERN RELIGIONS

CLASSICS

NEW ARRIVALS

HISTORY

PHILOSOPHY

PSYCHOLOGY

NEW AGE

POETRY

CHILDREN'S

SCIENCE-FICTION

DYSTOPIAN FICTION

ART

EROTICA

COOKING

HOBBIES

ALTERNATIVE LITERATURE

MATHEMATICS

RELIGION

CLIMATE

The Canberra Roller Derby Clubs

(With acknowledgement to Banjo Patterson)

It was in our southern suburbs while sitting in a pub

That they formed an institution called the Surley Griffins Roller Derby Club.

They were girls of every shape and size that had no fear of fame

And a track was never built that the Surleys couldn't tame

and their style of roller derby was dangerous and rash

They had mighty little science, and a mighty lot of dash

And they used to train by racing bikies round the pub

They were demons, were the members of the Surley Griffins Roller Derby Club.

It was somewhere in North Canberra, where they strut around and preen

That a Roller Derby club existed, called the Black and Blue Belles Team

As an alternative institution it was a marvellous success
For the members were distinguished by the coolness of their dress

They had the most fancy skates that were nice, and smooth, and sleek,

For their cultivated owners only used them once a week.

So they started down to Tuggers in pursuit of sport and fame,

For they meant to show the Surleys how they ought to play the game

And they took their lovers with them - just to give their skates a rub

Before they started operations on the Surley Griffins Roller Derby Club.

Now my readers can imagine how the contest ebbed and flowed,

When the Surley girls got going it was time to clear the road

And the game was so terrific that before half the time was gone

A spectator's leg was broken - just from merely looking on

For they jammed at one another till the track was strewn with dead

While the score was kept so even that they neither got ahead

Then the Captain of the Blue Belles, when she skated off to die

Was the last surviving player - so the game was called a tie

Then young Bambi of the Surleys got up slowly from the track

Though her wounds were mostly mortal, she fiercely looked front, then back

There was no one to oppose her - all the rest were in a trance

So she took the jammer's helmet for her last expiring chance

For she meant to make an effort to get victory to her side

So she slowly started jamming – but tripped on Duch-ass's arse - and died

Now in the Southern Cross Club in Tuggers, where the hoons still race their cars

There's a row of little gravestones that even Goths & EMOs never pass

For they bear a crude inscription saying, "Stranger, shed a tear

For the Black and Blue Belle players and the Surley Girls lie here.

And on misty alcoholic evenings, while the police cars howl out back

You can see their shadows flitting down that phantom roller derby track

You can hear the loud collisions as the flying players race

And the shrilling of ref's whistles, and the rattle of the skates

Till the terrified spectator runs like blazes to the club

She's been haunted by the spectres of the Canberra Roller Derby Clubs.

- Smiths Alternative Bookshop 2009