

EXPERT INSIGHT FROM A BOOKFEST VOLUNTEER

FRIDAY JUNE 11

OF the 400 volunteers that will help with the Bookfest this year, the majority of these are not newcomers. Volunteering is as much as part of their life as it is to the life of the Bookfest.

These volunteers are not only important to the success of the event, but are somewhat experts when it comes to knowing where the best books are.

Sorted into 22 categories and spanning over 1500 tables, the books wouldn't make their way into book-hungry hands without the assistance of Lifeline's many dedicated volunteers.

Valter Di Girolamo is one of these dedicated experts who started volunteering at the Bookfest three years ago.

This year will mark his seventh Bookfest and his original motivation to meet new people and have fun still embodies the reason he looks forward to the event each year.

'I got involved after a friend from work recommended I give it a try. It's just a fun, exciting way to be social and I get a real buzz from being there,' Mr Di Girolamo explained.

His favourite day to volunteer is day one, where he can experience the magic and excitement of all the eager book lovers as they rush through the doors.

Working on the registers, Mr Di Girolamo gets to see all the wonderful books and games that people discover, has insight into where the best items are, and loves making friendly banter with the customers.

'You always get the guys who come through buying really girly books, claiming that they're for their daughters' he laughs.

'It's really interesting to see what certain people look for and their tastes'.

With the sheer amount of books and tables to look at, his best advice for the day is to arrive with an open mind, take plenty of time and to not have a set idea of what you are trying to find.

'It's really just a big treasure hunt; you never what you are going to find and it's purely luck. The categories are also incredibly broad, so your best bet is to just wander around and look'.

He does have something particular in mind though which he'll be keeping his eye out for this weekend.

'I love to look through the games, and over the years I have collected all the 'usual' ones. People always come through the registers with things you forgot even existed,' he explained.

'I'll be keeping my eye out for the board game Holiday, which was something I used to play as a child. I used to play it with my siblings and I don't think they even make it anymore!'

There are still positions available to volunteer- contact Anastasia on 3250 1957 or email volunteer@lccq.org.au

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BOOKFEST BOOK BROWSING TIPS

- Wear comfortable shoes – there are 4km of tables and two million books to browse!
- Trolleys will be available for hire, but if you're catching public transport, make sure you've got your own trolley or bag big enough for all your bargains.
- Make sure you give yourself enough time to browse – to look through all three sections, you'll need *at least* one hour.
- Know your friends and family's favourite authors – the Bookfest is a great place to pick up presents.
- Remember – Tuesday is Sale Day!

Opening hours:

Open June 12-15

8:30am – 8:00pm Saturday to Monday

8:30am – 5:00pm Tuesday

Media Contact: To arrange an interview or photo opportunity, please contact Lifeline's Communication Officer, Anna-Maria Masci on 0408 751 831, 3250 1848 or anna-maria.masci@lccq.org.au