

## business &amp; community

## A chapter closes for Freshwater bookworms

It was a sad day for all local bookworms when the local Harbord Book Exchange closed its doors last month.

For owner, Elaine McKenna, it was time to turn the page on a 13 year history in Freshwater Village where many locals enriched their reading repertoires by visiting the shop regularly.

Moving the store from Darley Road Manly, Elaine's husband Tom opened the Harbord Book Exchange in 2000. When Tom passed away in 2008, Elaine wanted to continue running the business as she says, "I love reading and the customers, I wanted to take on the challenge of keeping the business going".

Elaine's three children have supported her through this time, and are happy she is finally making the move to enjoy her retirement.

Her daughter Fiona says, "The book industry has changed a lot over the last few years with Kindles, smart devices and other digital book resources. As a result, many second hand book-stores have closed their doors.

"There is a niche market – some people still enjoy the touch and feel of a book in their hands, but even then, many are turning to second hand book-trade websites to get their fix."

Elaine says she plans to spend time with the family and maybe do some travelling and enjoy herself, she



Elaine McKenna closes the book on an era

also adds, "I want to thank the all the customers who have supported the business over the years, and a special thank you to Chrissi who was a popular employee for many years. It's the end of an era, but you'll still see me down in the Village now and then".

If you find yourself missing a good read, there is still our voluntary run Harbord Community Library, where for a minimal membership fee, you can have access to a variety of titles and reading genres. For more information call 9905 4824.

## Career change going swimmingly



Petrina Liyanage - Swim with a Smile

With her passion for swimming and teaching, 30 year old Petrina Liyanage, removed herself from the corporate scene to follow her dreams.

In November 2013, Petrina launched her full time business Swim with a Smile, a mobile teaching company that offers lessons in home and apartment pools.

Since then, the business has attracted both adult and children beginners, as well as those wishing to improve their technique.

She says, "I moved to Freshwater last year and realised there is a demand for private teaching for swimming and water safety in the local area. I'm

really happy I can use my skills and experience to help residents here, it's a very rewarding job."

Petrina is certified to teach all ages from babies (6 months+) through to retirees. Her service spans across the North Shore and Northern Beaches, and is an AUSTSwim Recognised Swim Centre.

When not working, Petrina enjoys learning to surf at Freshwater beach.

"Surfing helps me to stay humble and respectful of the power of the sea. Spending time at the beach reminds me how important water safety is."

For more information, please call 0478 011 808 or email [petrina@swimwithasmile.com](mailto:petrina@swimwithasmile.com)

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