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CANBERRA'S FAVOURITE BOOKS OF 2011 REVEALED

A Jamie Oliver recipe book, a family memoir, and a novel that is both a love story and thriller, were among the most popular items borrowed from ACT public libraries in 2011.

"Over 2.9 million items were borrowed from ACT public libraries last year, the equivalent of more than 1,350 tonnes processed by library staff, or over three tonnes a day," Vanessa Little, Director, Libraries ACT, said today.

"A total of 538,277 requests for items were made by library members in 2011 and loans increased across the library service by 11 percent. Libraries ACT's entire collection is currently over 756,000 items.

"The most borrowed types of items of the library collection are picture books, DVDs and graphic novels (comic novels). Libraries ACT also provides collections in 18 languages other than English.

"Our public libraries remain an important part of many people's lives and last year welcomed around 1.9 million visitors," Ms Little said.

The most requested books in 2011 were: Jamie's 30 Minute Meals by Jamie Oliver, The Hare with Amber Eyes by Edmund De Waal, All That I Am by Anna Funder, Sideshow: Dumbing Down Democracy by Lindsay Tanner, Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks and Before I Go to Sleep by S. J. Watson.

The most requested DVDs in 2011 were: Valentine's Day, Salt, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency: The complete first season, and The King's Speech.

The most borrowed books over the last eight years are Mills and Boon titles, Grandpa and Thomas by Pamela Allen, The Turning by Tim Winton, Stieg Larsson's Millennium Trilogy (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, The Girl Who Played With Fire, The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest), Hunwick's Egg by Mem Fox, Daisy All-Sorts by Pamela Allen, Where Is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek, and Be Gentle by Virginia Miller.

The most borrowed DVDs over the last eight years are Lost: The Complete First Season, The Persuaders Collection 2, Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Stargate SG 1 Season 2, and The Day After Tomorrow.

"The variety of titles borrowed demonstrates the broad cross-section of the community that utilises our public libraries as a valuable resource. In 2012, as we celebrate the National Year of Reading, I encourage the community to continue to visit our public libraries and discover the wealth of enjoyment and information on offer," Ms Little concluded.

For more information about the special events and activities that will happen throughout the year visit www.library.act.gov.au

Statement Ends

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