

Let the old kind of book last the ages

EDITORIAL

By JESSICA AITCHISON

WHEN did sitting down with a good book suddenly require a power point? When did people become so scared of paper cuts that they would rather tap a screen than turn a page?

It may be the digital age but give me a dusty book with dog-eared pages and that library smell any day.

E-book sales have gone up drastically in the past few years, increasing by 37 per cent in 2012 and now making up 20 per cent of the book market, according to Digital Publishing Australia, but does this mean the death of paper books?

Do we really want libraries of the future to be just giant computers?

If I want a book today, I can go to my school or local library and talk to a person about what books I could read, where I can find it and we can even talk about the book after I have read it, all for free.

Within a family, a book would be a treasured possession that gets passed on. Great aunts from far away would send birthday and Christmas books through the post. School award prizes have tradi-

tionally been books. Will schools simply start handing out gift cards to be spent on digital books, DVDs or online apps?

Last week, I was rushing and dropped my book. It hit the floor and made my mother jump. However, if I had dropped my e-book the smashing screen would have made my mother do a lot more than jump.

The point of an e-book is that you don't need to carry around lots of books and you can read them whenever you like.

Whenever you like maybe, but not wherever you like. E-books require the internet to purchase books and power to charge the battery. The flashing battery of doom never flashes when you are about to read the final chapter of a paper book.

Children can be easily distracted. There is already television and the internet, which most children find more entertaining than books. Parents and teachers spend hours encouraging children to read, but devices are one click away from distraction. How do you encourage a child to read when you are giving them a device that lets them turn to a game every time you turn your back?

Although e-book sales are increasing, there will still be a large demand for paper books for many years to come - and I hope forever.



SKIP WITH JOY: Renae Smith and Montana Warner jumping ropes for the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart initiative. Picture: Alyssa Day

Jumping for a healthy heart

By MIA POWELL and KATHLEEN DOHERTY

JUMP Rope for Heart is an initiative run by the Heart Foundation that is celebrating its 30th birthday.

Each year the program involves more than 400,000 school-aged children from all over Australia. This year Jump Rope for Heart has raised more than \$180,000 for the Heart Foundation.

"Jump Rope for Heart instills in children a healthy lifestyle as well as allowing them an opportunity to help people with heart disease by raising much-needed funds," said Peter Miller, Heart Foundation field officer. Children can receive gifts such as

scooters, underwater cameras, skipping ropes and much more for raising money. However, the true reward is the life-long health benefits from being active and healthy.

Olivia Jones, a year 5 student at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College, was able to raise \$875 this year to help the college raise more than \$7000 in total. Olivia said: "Skipping is fun and I enjoyed raising money for people with heart disease. I will definitely participate again next year."

Montana Warner, year 2, won a school prize for the most backwards skips in one minute.

"It was so much fun to practise and learn all about skipping," Montana said.

Making ugg boots and water mix

By ALEXANDRA WALL

MOST 13-year-olds are playing video games and watching television, but Olivia Mortel wants to make a difference.

Olivia thought about how she could change the world and decided she wanted to raise money for a charity. The charity she chose to support was called Turn on the Tap - a campaign run by Samaritan's Purse.

It works through local churches and charity groups to promote the need for clean water and sanitation in developing countries.

The campaign started in 2005. It raises funds for projects such as building toilets, repairing local waterways, providing sanitation and hygiene training for local people or installing a BioSand water filter in homes.

Olivia first heard about the program through her school and decided to fund-raise by making ugglets.

Coming from an ugg-making family, this seemed like an obvious opportunity. Ugglets are an ankle bracelet made of brightly coloured beads that sits around the base of an uggboot.

"Ugglets are not very hard to make. It only takes three to four minutes," Olivia said.

Her goal is to raise \$3000 by the end of winter. Selling them from Mortel's Sheepskin Factory in Thornton and Warner's Bay, she has raised over \$2000.



Cartoon: Olivia Cooling

Another hard winter for man's best friend

By OLIVIA JONES

AS the winter chill blows in and we all reach for our warm jackets, Pat Meharg is thinking of those less fortunate.

For the past three years Mrs Meharg has been making and donating dog coats to the RSPCA in the lead-up to the colder weather.

From her home in Fletcher, Mrs Meharg makes coats of all different colours, sizes and patterns.

The RSPCA is always grateful for financial support, but her efforts

demonstrate someone going beyond giving money to help look after animals in need.

Mrs Meharg uses left-over materials so that nothing is wasted as she cuts out patterns (small, medium and large) for every breed of dog.

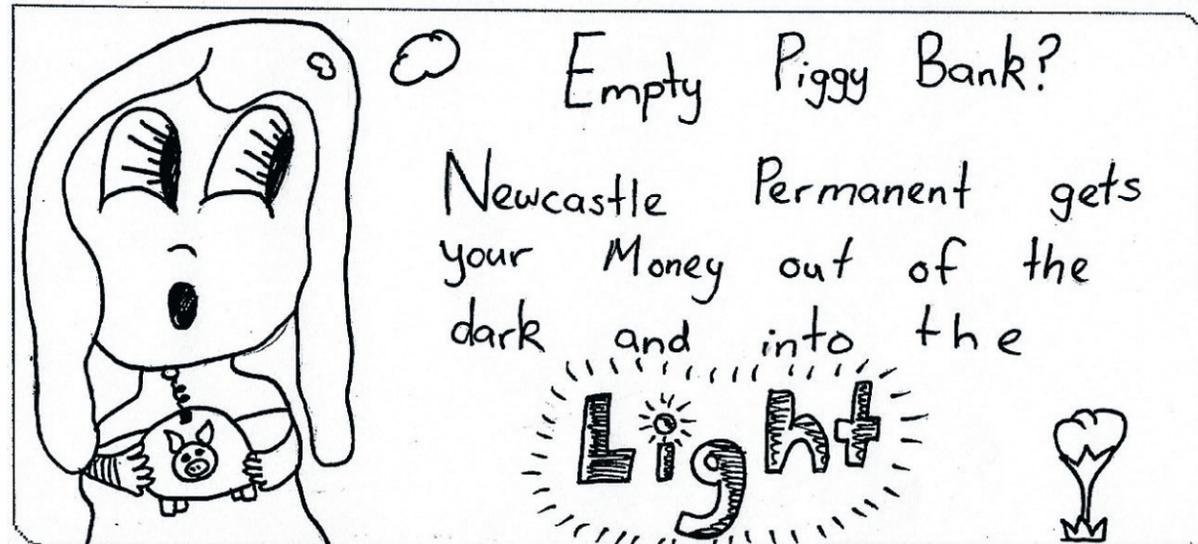
She sews the pattern together and lines the inside with cotton to make them soft and snuggly.

"I love dogs so much and I just want to make sure they are warm and cosy through the winter," she said.



STAYING WARM: Olivia Jones, Pat Meharg and Emmy wearing one of the cosy coats.

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