

strength which one might not have expected in a shop on a university campus. Dinner was at University House, good value as always.

Although the low atten-

1990. Friends, friends of Friends and others welcome.

On Saturday 6 August, the University Archivist, Frank Strahan and Senior Archivist, Cecily Close will join John



Pictured at Kay Craddock Old & Rare Books: clockwise from top left: Juliet Flesch, Kay Craddock, Alison Sayers and Muriel Craddock.

dance at these functions meant that they were not very successful in their primary aim of raising money for the Library's collections, they were certainly successful in giving those who came a very pleasant evening, and, we hope, made some new friends for the shops we visited. The cooperation of the shop owners was crucial to this, and for many of the visitors, the feeling that they know where to go and who to consult when choosing a special gift was the greatest benefit of the evenings.

The Friends have a number of interesting activities planned for the next few months, notably their Annual Dinner and a Saturday Seminar.

The Dinner will be held at University House on Thursday 28 July. The speaker will be Dr Janet McCalman, prize-winning author of *Journeys: the biography of a middle-class generation 1920-*

Lack from the Department of History and Liza Davey from ScienceWorks in presenting *From Quill to Optical Disk*, followed by afternoon tea and a trip to the Archives. The Seminar will be held in the Reader Education Room of the Baillieu Library. It will last from 2.00 to 4.30 and cost a miserly \$15.00. All welcome.

*Enquiries about Friends of the Baillieu Library activities*

# Book review

## Bookshops of Victoria; a reader's guide

**Juliet Flesch**

The first edition of *Bookshops of Victoria*\* was published in 1988, and many of us have been hanging out for the new one, as we grappled with the frustration of finding that shops had closed, moved, changed their phone numbers, expanded their coverage, etc., etc.

The new edition is similar in structure to the first, with the descriptions of individual shops preceded by a series of essays on various types of bookshop. The entries for the shops are alphabetically arranged, with subject and locality indexes at the end.

It's a nicer-looking book than the previous edition, and the cover reproduction of June Stephenson's *Girl reading* is especially pleasing. As before, the entries provide address, phone number, hours of opening, details of specialisation, the shop's own description of its services, reader comment and details of special services, such as phone or mail order, credit cards accepted and accessibility by wheelchair.

While your own opinion may differ from that of the anonymous "reader" the comments are generally useful and agreeably idiosyncratic. It's

nice, too, to see an increase in the number of country shops covered. As always, prohibitions on advertising sex-shops have meant that you will consult the index in vain for any of the profusion of "adult" bookstores of Melbourne, so the researcher in this area must continue to rely on the Yellow Pages.

The only other thing missing is some maps. This is a wonderful book to give to visiting friends and relatives with a couple of days free in Melbourne and it would be even better if it had a few sketch maps showing where the shops are.

That said, however, it's an extremely useful and enjoyable book, well worth the \$19.95 and this reader has found only one bookshop which has had the temerity to change its address since the guide was published!

*\*Bookshops of Victoria; a reader's guide. A project of the National Book Council (Victoria). 2nd edition. North Blackburn, Collins Dove, 1994. Review copy supplied by the National Book Council (Victorian Committee)*