



# Books of all types

Robin Tennant-Wood reads aloud

**I** BELIEVE IN LOCAL economies; I believe in the power and beauty of the written word; and I believe in the future and viability of regional Australia. Putting the three together, our decision back in May to open a small bookshop in Braidwood seemed only natural.

Local economies make sense. When a locally-owned business opens in a country town, a far greater proportion of each dollar spent at that business stays in the local economy than a dollar spent at a large chain or non-locally owned business. It also creates local employment and offers a service that residents may previously have had to travel to the nearest city to access. In this way, local towns not only stay viable, but grow and become strong.

After a couple of months in the planning, we finally opened the doors of Miss Ruby's Bookshop in July with a modest selection of secondhand and new books and a fairly large range of children's and young adult fiction. The local interest immediately confirmed to us that we were on the right track and we started putting together a 'literary map' of local tastes in books.

Our shelves are now stacked solid

with the sorts of books and titles that our local clientele have been requesting and reflect the diverse interests of the people who walk through the door. And what a diverse lot you are! As well as stocking as wide a selection as we can fit in the shop, if it's not on the



shelf, we'll get it in ... somehow. A customer recently requested a copy of Chairman Mao's Little Red Book. The late Chairman's quotes are being republished soon, but sourcing an original copy was proving to be a challenge. Then last week, while in Hong Kong on business for my 'other' job, I found a copy on a tiny stall in a Soho backstreet. Mission accomplished.

Another customer is on a mission to read at least one work by every Nobel Literature laureate since 1901. We were able to help him with second-hand copies of four or five of these literary luminaries whose work he was having trouble finding elsewhere.

As an ex-teacher, I have a particular interest in literature for children and young adults, and in developing our vision for the shop we made a deliberate decision to put a lot of effort into developing our range of books for children and teens.

Given its rich literary culture, Braidwood was just ripe for a bookshop. Local writers such as Meredith McKinney, Deborah O'Brien, Jackie French, Roger McDonald, Robyn Goodwin, Peter Freeman and Paula Boer are represented on the shelves. In November, comedian and author Anh Do was a surprise visitor to the shop and signed copies of his books before buying a range of books on photography.

Named after our late yorkie, who came second in an encounter with a snake late last summer, Miss Ruby's Bookshop represents both a personal passion for books and a vote of confidence in the future of our local economy.

*Outside of a dog,  
a book is man's  
best friend ...  
Inside of a dog  
it's too dark  
to read.*

*Groucho Marx*

We have a large range of new children's books for all ages and young adult fiction specially stocked for Christmas.

We also have shelves stacked with new and used books, including collectibles, for general reading.

When you're stuck for a present, you'll always find a book.

OPEN 6 DAYS  
TUESDAY – THURSDAY 10am – 4pm  
FRIDAY 10am – 6pm  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10am – 2pm  
CLOSED MONDAY

143 Wallace Street Braidwood  
(opposite the Chemist)

*Miss Ruby's  
Bookshop*  
*New and recycled reading*

**William Verdon  
Jeweller**



We repair, design, manufacture, clean and polish, value and remake jewellery.

- Watch batteries • pearl and bead threading • engraving.
- We can do all manner of things! Drop by and see.

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4842 2882**