

# Inspiring a lifelong love of reading

**NATALIE MCGREGOR**

GROWING Greater Readers, a Beyond the Bell Initiative, has partnered with the Mulleraterong Centre to raise early childhood exposure to books and reading through its Little Book Boxes project.

Little Book Boxes places boxes filled with children's books in cafes, doctor's surgeries and other public venues where families gather in townships throughout the greater Hamilton region.

Mulleraterong Centre will act as a drop-off point for books, donated by community members and participants will sort and prepare books and the setting up the Little Book Boxes, ready for distribution throughout the Hamilton community and outlying

smaller communities within the Southern Grampians Shire.

Little Book Boxes team leader Marg Millard said she was "excited" about the new partnership.

"While we are very happy for additional Little Book Boxes to be built and delivered to Mulleraterong for this project, we are more eager for donations of good quality second-hand children's books to be delivered to the centre," Ms Millard said.

"We are very short of books at the moment and the Little Book Boxes can't be rolled out empty.

"We're asking community members to have a spring clean of their bookshelves with any donations delivered straight to Mulleraterong at Alexandra Parade, Hamilton."

Growing Greater Readers aims to increase the rate of early childhood exposure to reading in the greater Hamilton region, and to reduce the high rate of local children who are entering formalised education with low literacy skills and low or no exposure to books or reading.

MULLERATERONG Centre chief executive Annette Read, client services manager Peter Gilbert and Little Book Boxes team leader Marg Millard are asking for community donations of good quality, second-hand children's books to be delivered to Mulleraterong under the Growing Greater Readers Little Book Boxes initiative. Photo: BILLY EASSON 170307bj004

