



Dear David,

For a number of years now, I've been thinking about the possibility of setting up a Centre for the Book in Melbourne. Someplace where a person could learn to print using hand-set metal type, learn how to sew and bind a book, and how to bring other printmaking techniques to bear on the book form. It's neither my idea nor a new one: the Center for Book Arts in New York City was established in 1974, and various other workshops and centres exist throughout the world. My introduction to letterpress printing was at the New York Center in 1996, and since then I've gone on to establish my own press and to teach letterpress and bookmaking at places including the San Francisco Center for the Book, Zygot Press, the Cleveland Institute of Art and the Victorian Writer's Centre.

Since last September, I've been working as manager of the Firestation Print Studio in Armadale, a public-access printmaking workshop. The Firestation is committed to broadening both its education program and the facilities available in the workshop, and is interested in acquiring some letterpress and bookbinding equipment. We are currently exploring ways to free up both space and funds to allow us to set up a small working press.

Would this interest you? Perhaps you have skills you might have time to share, or equipment you no longer have use for? Perhaps you yourself would like to have the opportunity to print now and then, without having to give over your dining room to a press? Perhaps you simply love finely printed books, and would like to support their continued creation? I will be hosting an informal meeting on July 13 at 7pm to discuss the future of book arts at the Firestation, and in Melbourne in general. I'd be very happy if you were able to attend, or if you could pass on this information to someone you know who might be interested. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me at the Firestation: 9509-1782, or on my mobile: 0401 409 325.

I hope you can make it on the 13th.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Fraser
Firestation Print Studio
2 Willis Street
Armadale, VIC 3143