

Vietnamese would kill children fathered by the enemy. ”



Suanne tells her story

Suanne Prager will tell her story one-on-one today as part of an Adelaide Hills Living Library event. Prager will be one of 14 "living books" available for "loan" in the second such event at the Mt Barker Community Library.

Library manager Ian Hildebrand says the program, which began with an event on Australia Day this year, aims to promote diversity and break down stereotypes.

"We wanted to promote what it meant to be Australian," he says.

"Not just traditional Australia-type stuff, but that we are a country of lots of different people with different life stories. There was also the aim of getting to know people who are often either discarded or discriminated against in society."

The Living Library concept originated in Denmark and was taken up by libraries in other Scandinavian countries. Mt Barker's Australia Day event was only the second to be held in Australia.

"Lismore (New South Wales) just beat us to it," says Hildebrand.

Among the "living books" sharing their stories at the library today will be a nun, a couple who describe themselves as nomadic artists, a witch (male, no broomstick), six Muslims (four women, two men) an amputee, a Vietnam veteran and a homosexual man.

Mt Barker Community Library, 10am-3pm today. Dumas St, Mt Barker.

A lifetime away . . . clockwise from top left, Suanne's mum, Ha Thi Hoa, outside the U.S. Navy Base, where she worked and met Suanne's father; Suanne in her St Peters Girls' school uniform, aged 16; with her half-sister Thi in the house where she lived with her Vietnamese family until she was three; with the Catholic priest who baptised her in 1974 at Our Lady of Perpetual Health church in Ho Chi Minh, and her baptism certificate.

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