



Inspiring the next generation of collectors

Are you an avid collector who may also have a partner that enjoys collecting? So when you decide to stop and visit an antique shop or centre are you regaled with protests from the back seat? A weekend drive does not have to be like this as there are so many opportunities to inspire children's interest in collecting.

We are fascinated by the number of children, both boys and girls, who are already avid collectors. The universal collections are books, stamps and coins, as these are affordable gifts and easy second-hand finds.

EASY OPTIONS

We want our children to be literate, so books offer amazing array of themes and images, authors and stories to encourage reading. Most children have a collection, probably started with gifts in infancy. There are limitless books on the different collections and, while it is acknowledged that many of them can be costly, it is often surprising that a hunt through some of the general book stores can turn up some good basic reference books at reasonable prices.

Stamp collecting had been a standard pastime of children for generations well before ours. It was inexpensive and a readily accessible hobby to pursue. Tools required were just albums and used stamps saved by family and friends. However, stamp collecting does not seem to have maintained its popularity with children and posting is a losing business in the internet era, only making stamps more valuable.

Coins and tokens are the most favoured, perhaps because they bring the added interests through sporting and historical events, such as WWI and WWII, Olympic and Commonwealth Games, and the opening of iconic structures such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge or Brisbane's Story Bridge.

NEW COLLECTING FOR KIDS

So, what else could take their fancy, that is relatively easy to find and fairly inexpensive? Whatever they choose will be a terrific way for them to appreciate the complete art of collecting, from a wanting and funding perspective through to display and sharing.

There are a number of items that could suit, some for boys, some for girls, some which suit different age groups and some that

are universal. Of course, many of these are already on the lists of 'grown up' collectors – what a family affair it could become. The following are collections that could spike the interest of even relatively young children.

- Die cast models
- Coins
- Medals and tokens
- Banknotes
- Comics
- Books, e.g. Annuals, Enid Blyton
- Dolls & teddy bears
- Doll houses and furniture
- Postcards
- Trade cards
- Old board games
- Vintage toys

Older children may already collect some of these yet they might like to vary the style of their collections. Vintage handheld computer games, old Sega and Nintendo games and even the 80s Walkman radios can be cool collectables as they are technology, even if antiquated from their teen perspectives.

Perhaps decorator items for teen bedrooms are a new collecting perspective – think movie or action figure prints, posters and signs, soft furnishings or funky furniture (e.g. shabby chic). Teens are ready for anything, so try introducing these collectables:

- Retro or vintage clothing
- Costume jewellery
- Car memorabilia – badges, old magazines, prints
- Cameras, particularly the more basic models such as the box camera, 35 mm and SLRs

Each suggested area offers opportunities to start at the ground floor with very inexpensive available varieties. Of course, many such interests can lead to rarer more expensive items. A number of these suggestions don't need any specific equipment for storage or display but even those that do can be accommodated without too much cost involved.

The internet is a valuable tool which nearly all children love to use so it is another great way for the young collector to research the collection of their choice. Encourage using the local library for reference books on a wide range of antiques and collectables. We have found that reference books not held at local libraries can be ordered in from the Queensland State Library.

As with adults, not all children will embrace collecting as an interest. Perhaps this article provides inspiration to encourage them

to 'give it a go' and who knows, some could discover a passion for collecting that will last a lifetime. How many of us wish we had started our collecting at a much younger age.

BAYSIDE – WORTH THE VISIT

Bayside is located in the scenic Redlands at 162 Bloomfield Street Cleveland, and is a 30-minute drive from Brisbane City. It is a short flat walk from Cleveland Railway Station and the bus stops at the door. There is ample parking, both onsite and on the street.

We are open 7 days a week, 10 am to 5 pm. The centre's spacious layout ensures access for wheelchairs, motorised scooters, walkers and prams. Relax and enjoy a complimentary cuppa. Well-behaved pets are also welcome to visit with their owners. Our staff combines many years of experience and our aim is to assist wherever possible and provide a relaxing and friendly atmosphere for our customers.

With over 30 shop spaces, our dealers bring together a wonderful array of antiques, collectables and old wares, as well as each dealer bringing a different perspective to the and constantly refreshing and adding stock.

Bayside welcomes our newest dealers, Linen and Lace, who specialise in shabby chic and decorator items.

ANNUAL OPEN NIGHT

Wednesday 16 November

Bayside's themed open night is our end of year Christmas shopping night. Enjoy the holiday atmosphere as dealers and customers socialise and enjoy good company, nibbles and drinks. Look for the specials and negotiate direct with the dealers – be there to win a lucky door prize.

WE ARE ON THE NET

Check out our website and visit us on Facebook for a glimpse of what the centre has to offer. Remember to Like Us on Facebook to keep updated with information and photos of new stock.

Rob & Di Metcalfe

BAYSIDE ANTIQUE & COLLECTABLES CENTRE
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Over 30 shop spaces catering for a wide range of antiques, collectables and old wares, including furniture, ceramics, glass, silver, decorative arts, jewellery, books, coins, medals, ephemera, art, toys, photographic, militaria, tools and much more. Includes a mezzanine floor dedicated to vintage, retro, pre-loved and labels fashions and accessories.



BAYSIDE ANTIQUE & COLLECTABLES CENTRE

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Open 7 days 10 am - 5 pm

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- Email: baysideantique@optusnet.com.au
- www.baysideantiqueandcollectablescentre.com
- On site and street parking • Approx. 30 mins from Brisbane CBD
 - Complimentary tea and coffee
- Easy access for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, prams
- Dealer enquiries welcome re spaces and cabinets

