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Whose chooks?

National Simultaneous Storytime 2002

11am AEST Wednesday 4 September 2002

ollowing the highlysuccessful inaugural National Storytime during Library and Information Week 2001, ALIA is inviting all public library services, primary and pre-school libraries, and early childhood centres to participate in National Simultaneous Storytime 2002.

The National Simultaneous Storytime will take place during Literacy and Numeracy Week at 11:00am AEST on Wednesday 4 September. The picture book, *Mrs Wilkinson's chooks*, will be read simultaneously in libraries throughout the country. *Mrs Wilkinson's chooks* is written by popular Australian author Leone Peguero, and illustrated by Mike Spoor.

The target audience for the storytime is children aged three to eight years — and their parents, grandparents, creches, teachers, day-carers, pre-schools, early childhood centres, kindergartens and community groups. You may wish to invite some or all of these along to your library to participate in this national event.

The aim of the National Simultaneous Storytime is to give exposure to the services

to children in libraries by celebrating one of the most popular activities: story time. By attracting and engaging young audiences, the event provides the opportunity to promote the value of reading and books, and the important role which libraries play in stimulating literacy. The National Simultaneous Storytime is being sponsored by Random House and Dymocks Booksellers. The sponsorship allows for the production and distribution of promotional posters, bookmarks and certificates which will be distributed to participating libraries during July. ALIA National Office is co-ordinating the event, including registrations of interest and involvement, and distribution of promotional material.

Random House is providing a generous 55 per cent discount on the recommended retail price of \$14.95 for participating libraries and organisations that place orders for *Mrs Wilkinson's chooks* directly with the publisher. Send your order to: Kate Rumble, Random House Australia, 20 Alfred Street, Milsons Point 2061, fax 02 9954 4562. (This offer is only valid to one-drop orders — libraries will not be able to top up their orders once they have been received by Random House).

Dymocks stores throughout the country will be participating in the National Simultaneous Storytime. They will provide a ten per cent discount on the purchase of *Mrs Wilkinson's chooks* during the month of September when customers present the special promotional bookmark which will be forwarded to registered participants.

Check out the website http://www.alia. org.au/advocacy/storytime/. Here you can register your library's participation and obtain a list of the regional co-ordinators for Storytime. The ALIA's Childrens and Youth Services groups have also put together ideas for activities and setting the stage for Storytime. Further details can be obtained by contacting Sandra Reid at the National Office on 02 6285 1877 or sandra.reid@alia.org.au.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week

National Literacy and Numeracy Week demonstrates and celebrates the hard work of schools and their communities and acknowledges the outstanding results that teachers and students are achieving through innovation and exemplary teaching and learning practices.

To encourage schools, the federal government is providing \$200 000 in awards to schools which are able to demonstrate that they are having a positive, measurable impact on their students' literacy and numeracy achievements. For information on how to apply for the awards, visit the website at http://www.detya.gov.au/literacyweek/.

The national launch of National Literacy and Numeracy Week took place during Library and Information Week 2002, and was hosted by Bronte Public School in Sydney. Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, MP, launched the week, surrounded by Bronte Public

School students, teachers, parents, and sponsors.

This year, a number of high profile Australians are supporting National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2002 by becoming 'literacy and numeracy champions'. The champions are Lisa Forrest (former Olympic swimmer, sports journalist, and author); and authors Duncan Ball, Libby Gleeson, John Larkin and Leone Peguero. Sponsors of the Week include the Commonwealth Bank, Dymocks Literacy Foundation, Australia Post, Lovatts Crosswords and Puzzles, Faber-Castell, Franklin Electronic Publishers, Coles Supermarkets, and the Australian Football League.

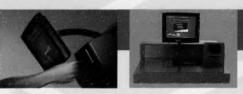


At the launch of National Literacy and Numeracy Week were (back) John Larkin and Leone Peguero; (middle) Bronte Public School students, and Duncan Ball, (front) Jude Bolton, Dr Brendan Nelson, Lisa Forrest and Libby Gleeson.



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