

Your voice

More on Mrs Wilkinson...

Although I did not register as an official participant, I made quite a fuss of National Simultaneous Storytime (which I called in my promotions 'The biggest storytime in the world') in the Grafton NSW school where I am the teacher librarian. And apart from a very successful event, I discovered recently that there is an unusual twist to my celebration of the day.

I promoted the event and arranged with the infants class teachers and the pre-school class to come to the school hall at 11.00am on Storytime Day. Normally the classes just come individually to the library for stories so this was different from the usual routine. I had a program of songs rhymes and finger plays all related to the chook world and children participated by animating a selection of puppets to fit where appropriate. I then read *Mrs Wilkinson's Chooks* to the group and promised the children that each of the teachers could borrow the book and read it again sometime in their classrooms. It was a very happy, active, focussed little Storytime — no big names but lots of book-based interest and fun activities which established the context. I was just

happy having a little event which focussed on literature in a different way and thought no more on it.

Now here is a postscript. Over the October long weekend we stayed with friends and I was talking about 'The biggest storytime in the world' and the book I had read. I was very surprised to discover that the author of *Mrs Wilkinson's Chooks*, Leone Peguero, was in fact my friend's cousin! I obtained her e-mail address and in our e-conversations since then I have discovered that in fact her childhood was spent in Grafton (though she lives in Melbourne now). So, surprise, surprise! She is a Grafton local! I wish I had known that before the event! The press media came to my event but the coverage didn't make the paper copy desk. I have pointed out the connections in an article since the event.

I'm looking forward to next year's event and I'll be sure to do some research next year when the book and author is announced just in case there is another little link that I might have missed — do you think lightning could strike twice in this case?

Heather Fisher

Your letters on any issue of relevance to the library and information sector are welcomed.

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