



RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

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National Simultaneous Storytime

5 September 2003, 11:00am AEST

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) was first held during Library and Information Week 2001. In 2002 NSS took place during Literacy and Numeracy Week, and as a result achieved a higher profile and increased publicity. In 2003, NSS will again be held during Literacy and Numeracy Week. The cross promotion of NSS and Literacy and Numeracy Week by ALIA and the Department of Education, Science and Training through web links, promotional material and published articles has resulted in a greater interest in NSS and will ensure that NSS 2003 will attract a wider audience and be held in an even greater number of locations.

The aim of NSS is to promote:

- the value of reading and literacy;
- the value of books;
- an Australian writer and publisher; and
- storytime activities in public libraries around the country. Storytime is

a highly valued and utilised service to the community.

NSS 2003 will take place on Friday, 5 September 2003 at 11:00am AEST. ALIA is inviting all public library services, primary and pre-school libraries, early childhood centres and pre-schools to participate in reading the picture book, *I don't want to go school*, simultaneously throughout the country. *I don't want to go school* is written by popular Australian author, Christine Harris and illustrated by Craig Smith. NSS is a great opportunity to invite parents, grandparents, local VIP's, the press and community groups to participate in and enjoy the occasion, and at the same time highlight the importance of reading and literacy in children and how this can be a fun experience.

ALIA National Office co-ordinates the event including taking registrations and producing and distributing all the promotional materials. All registered

organisations will receive:

- a National Simultaneous Storytime poster featuring the chosen book;
- bookmarks for all the children participating; and
- a certificate of participation.

NSS sponsors, Dymocks Booksellers and Random House publishers will be actively involved in NSS 2003. Dymocks Booksellers will hold readings in eighty retail outlets around Australia, and will also give a ten per cent discount on the recommended retail price of *I don't*



Minister for Education Brendan Nelson with Matthew Riley, literacy champion, and students from Mowbray Primary School at the launch of National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2003, 30 May.

want to go to school during the months of August and September upon the presentation of the special promotional bookmark.

Random House will provide a generous 55 per cent discount on the recommended retail price of \$14.95 for participating libraries and organisations that place orders for *I don't want to go to school* directly with the publisher. The special price is \$6.75 per book and orders can be sent to: Greg Brooks, Random House Australia, 20 Alfred Street, Milsons Point 2061, fax 02 9954 4562, e-mail: gbrooks@randomhouse.com.au. (This offer is only valid to one-drop orders — organisations will not be able to top up their orders once they have been received by Random House).

Visit the NSS website at <http://alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/> to:

- register your organisation's participation.
- obtain a list of the regional co-ordinators who are the point of contact for regional promotion and publicity.
- get ideas for setting the stage for NSS, associated activities and additional stories with similar themes to read in

conjunction with the chosen book. These are put together by ALIA's Childrens and Youth Services groups.

- view an alphabetical list of all organisations participating.

Further details can be obtained by contacting Daniella Kiley at National Office on 02 6215 8235, daniella.kiley@alia.org.au.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 1–7 September 2003

National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW) celebrates and acknowledges the progress Australian schools, teachers, parents, individuals and the community have made towards raising the literacy and numeracy levels of all Australians. Through the NLNW Excellence Awards for schools and the Minister's Awards for Outstanding Contribution by Individuals to Improve Literacy and/or Numeracy, the commonwealth government recognises and promotes the excellent programs and commitment of many Australians to develop these skills.

NLNW is a commonwealth government initiative, which aims to:

- showcase the hard work school communities are undertaking in improving literacy and numeracy skills;

- recognise the outstanding results that have been achieved;
- raise community awareness of the importance of all Australian students developing effective literacy and numeracy skills; and
- build on national initiatives to improve literacy and numeracy standards among young Australians.

The Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson launched National Literacy and Numeracy Week on Friday 30 May. Literacy and numeracy champions play an important role in NLNW. These champions highlight the importance of literacy and numeracy in young people. The 2003 champions include Lisa Forest, Reverend Bill Crews, Matthew Reilly, Tracy Spicer and John Burgess. Sponsoring NLNW are: Commonwealth Bank Foundation, Dymocks Literacy Foundation, Australia Post, Lovatts Crosswords and Puzzles, Franklin Electronic Publishers, and Auskick.

See <http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/> for more information on the NLNW and how to apply for the awards. ■



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