

National Simultaneous Storytime

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An extremely successful National Simultaneous Storytime was held at 11:00am on 3 September.

Children around the country gathered to hear the wonderful children's story *Muddled-up farm*, by Mike Dumbleton and illustrated by Jobi Murphy. There was even a storytime venue registered in the United Kingdom — although we hope the children were not dragged out of bed in the middle of the night to hear the story!

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2004 Champions also supported the event: Melissa Doyle (host of Sunrise), read to students at Lindfield Public School; Matthew Reilly (author), read at the Dymocks Castle Hill store; Christopher



Katie Cole with her children baby Jessie, Gabriel and Marcel at the Belconnen Library storytime session

Cheng (author) mixed with children from St Mary's, North Sydney; Libby Gleeson (author) visited Wilkin's School in Marrickville; and Reverend Bill Crews (Exodus Foundation) shared the story with students from the Darlington School in Chippendale.

Congratulations to all the schools, pre-schools, day-care centres, libraries and other groups who took part in the event this year. National Simultaneous Storytime will be even bigger and better in 2005. Stay tuned for details.

Our thanks also go to Australia Post who generously supported National Simultaneous Storytime in 2004. We look forward to their continued support of the event.



Melissa Doyle, host of Sunrise, reading to students at Lindfield Public School



<http://alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/>

Read us more, Bill!

National Simultaneous Storytime 2004 at Darlington Public School

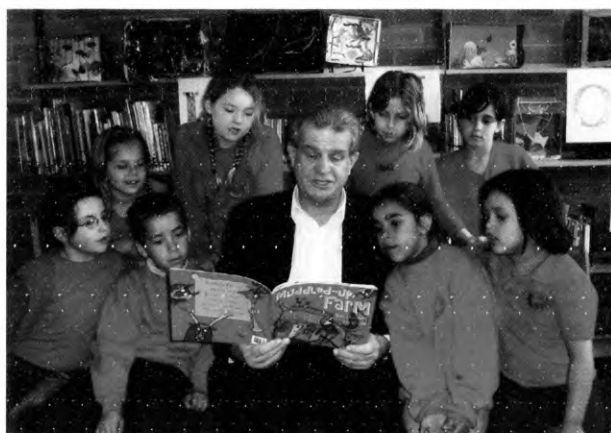
On Friday 3 September 2004 at 11:00am (AEST) schools, libraries and pre-schools and early-childhood centres from Broome to Hobart joined in the reading of the picture book, *Muddled-up farm* to more than 250 000 Australian children.

Reverend Bill Crews, superintendent chairman, from the Exodus Foundation had a captive audience of Year 2 students from Darlington Public School, when he joined people from around Australia in National Simultaneous Storytime 2004.

The Exodus Foundation, based in Ashfield in Sydney, assists homeless and abandoned youth and other people in need. Since 1996, Exodus has been operating a Tutorial Centre for youth who are so

far behind in their school work that they either have, or are in danger of dropping out of school altogether. To date over 300 children have successfully completed the program.

Daisy Lee, Darlington Public School



Reverend Bill Crews surrounded by Yr 2 students from Darlington Public School



Mike Dumbleton
Jobi Murphy

11:00am AEST
3 September 2004