

National Simultaneous Storytime 2007

It's always a good time for a story, but **Thursday, 6 September 2007 at 11:00am** will be better than most, as thousands of Australian children sit down to share the same good book at the same time across the nation!

The chosen book for National Simultaneous Storytime 2007 is *The Magic Hat* written by one of Australia's most loved authors, Mem Fox.



Mem Fox has waved her magic pen with this irresistible picture book which tells the story of a runaway hat that moves through the town, spinning through the air from person to person causing chaos — and hilarity! It is beautifully illustrated by Tricia Tusa and published by Scholastic Australia, the major sponsor for National Simultaneous Storytime for 2007.

National Simultaneous Storytime was first held during Library and Information Week in 2001 and it is now part of ALIA's annual program. Each year a picture book is chosen by the ALIA National Simultaneous Storytime Committee, which is made up of children's storytime experts. The Committee chooses a book suitable for children aged two–six years and which is written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator. This book is then read simultaneously in libraries, schools, family homes, childcare centres, bookshops, pre-schools, and many other agencies around the country.

The event highlights the importance of reading and literacy in children, and demonstrates how this can be fun! It provides a great opportunity to involve parents, grandparents, the media and the general community.

In 2006, approximately 40,000 children at over 620 locations took part in the National Simultaneous Storytime reading of *Good Night Me*, written by Andrew Daddo and illustrated by Emma Quay.

In 2007, ALIA is providing a one-stop shop for your National Simultaneous Storytime participation. Libraries and centres wishing to participate can register through the ALIA website and order merchandise via a downloadable form. This year's merchandise will include posters, bookmarks, balloons and the paperback edition of *The Magic Hat*.

This is a wonderful opportunity to promote your library! The website also includes a media kit for promoting National Simultaneous Storytime in your library, activity ideas for inspiration and links to the author's and publisher's websites. National Simultaneous Storytime 2007 will be held at 11am on Thursday 6 September during National Literacy and Numeracy Week.

To register, visit <<http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/2007/>>.

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