

National Simultan

Mem Fox
Illustrated by
Tricia Tusa

In addition to our celebrations, Jane Hardy, ALIA's Assistant Director, Strategy and Advocacy, was interviewed on ABC local radio Queensland about the NSS.

Dickson Library, ACT

Dickson Library held a storytime for NSS with a guest reader, talented local milliner Rachael Henson, shown below reading Mem Fox's *The Magic Hat* while wearing one of her own fabulous creations: a dragon hat. The children all made their own paper hats before 11.00am in preparation for the count down to NSS.

NSS Vincent Library, WA

To celebrate NSS the Town of Vincent Library invited Mayor Nick Catania to read the nominated book to the children. Library staff wore hats during the morning and decorated the Children's Area with balloons and a display of Mem Fox's books.

Fifty-two children, including those from a local early childhood centre, and 30 adults enjoyed songs and the Mayor's engaging reading of *The Magic Hat*. After the reading, the attendees stayed for morning tea and received a 'Town of Vincent' magic hat to take home with them. The children had a wonderful time as evidenced by their enthusiastic singing and lots of giggles as the story unfolded. A very successful event promoting literacy to young children!

NSS in Darwin

Special storytimes were held at all four Darwin City Council Libraries for NSS on September 6. Between 20 and 82 children attended the storytimes at each library branch.

The NSS was started by 'shaking our sillies out' and other songs and stories, before reading *The Magic Hat* by Mem Fox, using magic hats, stars and puppets.



Rachael Henson at Dickson Library



Mem Fox and young book lovers



Mem Fox reads her book at her local library, Brighton Library SA



Darwin's colourful notice board



Everyone enjoyed themselves at Darwin City Council Library



An animated read



Kalgoorlie City Library WA
Simultaneous Storytime in the sunshine



Town of Vincent Mayor Nick Catania
with some satisfied library goers



ous Storytime 2007



CPT – Colour Pencil Therapy

Magic at National Office



Fun at Fairfield Branch Library



Kate Watson, ALIA Director, at NSS in Rockhampton's Southside Library



Mundihong Public Library WA



NSS at Westfield Library



Houston, Texas USA. Some of the 1st grade students say 'G'Day!' before reading *The Magic Hat*

The children made headbands with their favourite characters from the story.

The children loved the activity and jumped right into it, colouring in their animal for the headband. Parents were right in there with the children, cutting out the animals, assisting with the colouring in and putting everything together.

After the excitement of hearing *The Magic Hat* and making headbands, everyone was ready for morning tea, which consisted of watermelon, fairy bread and water/juice. They all sat on the floor or chairs, with their headbands on, enjoying their 'picnic', as one of the children called it.

Energised by morning tea, the children were ready to move on to new adventures and happily left with their parents, after thanking the presenters for the great time they had had.

NSS in the north

Rockhampton's under-six set had a real treat when the Wiggles' Dorothy the Dinosaur and National Simultaneous Storytime both hit town. Rockhampton Library Service's Ann-Maree Dyer warmed up the storytime crowd with stories and finger puppet making, then ALIA director Kate Watson read *The Magic Hat*. WIN TV captured the excitement for the news that night.

NSS in the West

The City of Armadale's Westfield Library came alive with the NSS followed by a Mad Hatters Tea Party.

Jocelyn McLennon returned after raring success reading for the NSS last year. Jocelyn is Recreation Officer from the City of Armadale. She has appeared on television quiz programs and is a trained radio broadcaster. Her fun and positive personality made Mem Fox's story very theatrical!

Dads Read at National Simultaneous Storytime

Dads and children at the Fairfield Branch Library NSW celebrated NSS in a very special way this year through 'Reading with Dad Day'.

Fairfield Branch Library is known as a 'men's library' and was chosen so that male reading models could be demonstrated to the local community. Nine dads and two granddads came to the session and many more men watched the proceedings from other parts of the library. The female staff from the library and community partners kept a low profile so that it really did become an event for men and children run by men.

Dads then had the opportunity to help their children make a craft project and enjoy a healthy fruit morning tea kindly donated by Fruitland Fairfield. Each family went home with a bag of goodies including a free Let's Read book, a CD of children's songs as well as the craft activities and bookmarks for the NSS book, *The Magic Hat*. Lots of fun was had by all and hopefully, this very successful 'Reading with Dad Day' will encourage dads in the community to spend time reading and playing with their children.

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NSS 2007

700 participate in Cranbourne's NSS 2007!

The NSS 2007 in Cranbourne, Victoria, was a lesson in community capacity building — an opportunity to create a great partnership between local police, fire brigade, commercial enterprise and the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation together with Windermere's Communities for Children. Brett the policeman, Phil the fireman, and shopping centre identity Charlie the security guard were joined by approx 60 children to read *The Magic Hat* at Centro Shopping Centre. Balloons, banners and a great story made for a lively and entertaining morning. At the same time, Cranbourne Library played host to the Casey Mayor, councillor Colin Butler who read to 40 children and helped with the activities. Playgroups, kinders, day care centres, schools, family daycare and community houses, also participated at their own venues.

This took the total of local Cranbourne children participating to over 700! Cranbourne is looking forward to next year, which will be bigger and better!

NSS at Queanbeyan Library NSW

Forty excited children listened to Assistant Children's Librarian Emma Ciechan read *The Magic Hat* by Mem Fox. They watched a film called *The Wizard* and made a Magic Hat headband to wear home.

ALIA would like to thank Scholastic, the Australian publishers of *The Magic Hat* and proud sponsors of National Simultaneous Storytime for 2007.

For more NSS 2007 photos go to < <http://alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/2007/>>.



Queanbeyan's Assistant Children's Librarian Emma Ciechan and Tara Blake



Brett the policeman, Phil the fireman, and Charlie the security guard work together to present *The Magic Hat* at Cranbourne

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