

HANGING ON EVERY WORD

This year there were some fantastic events organised for National Simultaneous Storytime on 27 May.

Federal Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, took a break from matters of state and headed to Canberra Parliament House's childcare centre to read *The Brothers Quibble*.

It was a dynamic rendition of the story and the under fives loved every minute!

The young audience was completely unfazed by all the TV crews and camera flashes as Mr Pyne entertained the kids – noting he had a lot of practice with four children at home!



Opposition Leader Bill Shorten headed to St Albans East Primary School in his electorate of Maribyrnong to complete a reading.

Both Mr Shorten and Mr Pyne's teams took to social media to inform followers about the event. Both readings were broadcast live on Periscope which is Twitter live-streaming video app. It allows users to watch and broadcast live video from anywhere in the world.

Mr Shorten kept them entertained and unlike Parliament or a press conference, there were no hecklers or penetrating questions – just an excellent story to keep everyone entertained.

Best-selling author and Australian Children's Laureate, Jackie French had the biggest crowd - nearly 1500 children from nine schools and kindergartens in South Australia were glued to her every word.

Top: Christopher Pyne

Inset: Bill Shorten



As part of her 2015 regional and remote touring program as Children's Laureate, Jackie participated in the large multi-school event in Mount Gambier, organised by the Mount Gambier Public Library and held at Tenison Woods College.

It was a 'rock star' welcome for Jackie who walked out to the stage amid boisterous chants of 'We Want Jackie'.

'It was an amazing experience, even watching the children get off the bus, they weren't just walking they were bouncing,' she said.

'When you give a child a book you're giving them a tool to create their future and also the power to envisage and create that future'.

'A story is not just a story; it's about what children learn from it - the more powerful the book the more powerful the experience.'

Jackie was appointed the National Children's Laureate for 2014-2015 and is on a nationwide mission to promote a love of reading by encouraging others to 'Share a Story'.



Above: Jackie French