



LET'S READ

Newsletter

Let's Read Launch in Orange - NSW



Orange City Councillor Fiona Rossiter
presenting a book pack

The *Let's Read* program was launched at Orange City Library in August, with the aim of introducing parents and children to early literacy.

Special guests at the launch were Federal member for Calare John Cobb, Local Member for Orange Andrew Gee, Orange Mayor John Davis, Orange City Councillor Fiona Rossiter and regional Library Manager Jan Richards. Jan was also the guest speaker and talked about the importance of reading with children in the early years. The Smith Family Learning for Life worker

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Murdoch Childrens
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everyone's family

Townsville Let's Read- QLD

Robyn Campbell continues to do a wonderful job promoting early literacy through her "*Let's Read*" read aloud reading sessions at Rasmusen State School. Robyn, a valued volunteer, holds sessions once a fortnight during school terms. Many of the families who attend, drop their older child/ren off at school, before heading to the school library where the sessions are held. Following is a quote from Robyn regarding the most recent session, the final one for term 3: "*The whole session was delightful today. Everyone (even the two youngest) was wholly engaged in the story reading, songs &*

Sarah Donoghue said: "It's an excellent opportunity for the Orange community, with Pantera Press funding the program, making it possible to provide to many families."



Tyler and Abbie-Rose McGuinness
with their grandmother, Donna

Krystal McGuinness was at the launch with her two-year-old son Tyler because she believes he is the right age to start being introduced to literacy. "I think the program will help him with his reading skills, and it's also a great way for him to bond with other kids," she said.

Sarah Donoghue
Learning for Life Worker | The Smith Family

activities. With one family in particular, who have attended on a regular basis, there appears to have been such a growth in the relationship between mother & son. I still remember the first session when both mother & child (who was essentially uncooperative) seemed very anxious. Contrasting this situation with what was evident today was wonderful. Their interactions with each other as they engaged in the various activities were really rewarding to see."

Fiona McCarthy
Let's Read Project Officer

Brimbank Let's Read - VIC



*Bookmaking session
Participants showing their finished books*

Brimbank recently delivered *Let's Read* to an African women's group based in a school. The mothers bring their children and they learn English.

The Community Development Worker and a volunteer did some bookmaking with the group. The group they were working with had a little exposure to children's books but wanted to learn how to encourage their children to enjoy them. Most of them were not comfortable writing in any language.

They developed a simple story line and each participant produced a small book based on the same story line. The basic structure gave them a chance to practice English and by the end all participants could practice reading their own book. They really enjoyed the experience and felt it was something they could encourage their children to do.

Over the four weeks they talked about early brain development, the importance of sharing a book from an early age and things they

could do with their children when sharing a book.

They also did story times with the children and practiced sharing books. At the end of the four weeks all participants received a *Let's Read* Pack and some second-hand books from the Library.

Jeanine Carter

Learning for Life /Community Development Worker |The Smith Family

Let's Read Bundaberg - QLD

Let's Read Bundaberg/Wide Bay has been involved in many community activities recently including Father's Day, the Multicultural festival and the ongoing 'read aloud' sessions at local shopping centres. *Let's Read* also participated in Rainbow Day on the 9th of September as part of Child Protection Week. A major event that *Let's Read* is involved in called "Bringing the Stories Alive" was held over three days from the 13th through to the 15th of September. This event included a storyteller and interactive participation from children and their families. The Bundaberg *Let's Read* Project Officer has attended local workshops which focus on supporting connections for early language, literacy and early interventions, and these workshops have

provided valuable information and a chance to connect with other community organizations. New volunteers have had their inductions and training and are eager to participate in the *Let's Read* program. A training session for community and health professionals will be held in late September and further interest has been shown in the *Let's Read* program by a number of different organizations.

*Susan Scarr
Let's Read Project Officer*

...Let's Read Inspires

Let's Read is a huge success in Whyalla Approximately 10 sites are delivering this program on behalf of The Smith Family, which means that over 300 children are accessing this program on a regular basis. Several locations, including HIPPY at Uniting Care Wesley and the Whyalla Public Libraries have implemented a borrowing system for families. In addition to this, all Whyalla's *Let's Read* sites have partnered with each other, which means that they are also borrowing resources from each other. These community professionals are spreading the word of *Let's Read* to parents by incorporating it into their current programs. Many community professionals believe that *Let's Read* complements what they are doing already.

William Binnie, Learning for Life Worker - SA

Let's Read - It's fun and helps your child develop...

Adam's Mum – Candy visited the **Lismore Library** and was surprised to receive a Lismore *Let's Read* library bag pack all ready for her to take home for her to enjoy with 12 week old Adam. Candy took out library membership for Adam so they can borrow the books on the list of recommended titles for 3 month old children in the library bag along with the *Let's Read* DVD, free book and information of what and how to read with your baby.

Nicole Eldridge

Children and Youth Services, Richmond Tweed Regional Library - NSW



The Smith Family partnered with the Playford Library service to host a *Let's Read* Pets' Party in July. Over 20 families attended the event. The *Let's Read* program was delivered to a number of families and one parent commented, *"It's great to attend events that bring families together. I think the Let's Read program gets people excited about reading and inspires them to make positive choices."*



A recent visit to the Adam's Rd Playgroup in the Northern suburbs of Adelaide revealed some really positive comments from both the parents and facilitators; *"The Let's Read program is great and I tend to read to my children more often because of it"*. *"The Let's Read Program is really proving to be very popular with our parents. I know that a number of young mums are trying to read to their children every night"*. *"The Let's Read program has really opened up reading to a lot more parents who wouldn't normally read to their children on a regular basis. In fact many children are now asking their parents to read every night."*



Parents & Let's Read facilitators - SA



Let's Read Launch in Claymore - NSW

Let's Read Launch for the Claymore Airds community took place recently on a bright sunny day at Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation. The venue was decorated with *Let's Read* coloured banners and posters and a table with *Let's Read* information for parents to read.

Let's Read will be delivered in this community by and including Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Ooranga Wandarrah Aboriginal Childcare Centre, Briar Road Public School, John Warby Public School, Claymore Neighbourhood Centre, Macarthur Diversity Services play groups, Good Beginning, Peps playgroup, and KU services Briar Road.

The program will encourage parents



Let's Read Launch in Claymore

to read with their children from as young as four months to help put the building blocks in place so they are ready to learn to read when they reach school. The launch had over 75 people in attendance. Attendees included John and Alison Green from Pantera Press who have kindly funded the program, Darryl Wright, the CEO, (Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation) acted as Master of

Ceremony, with presentations by Alison Green the CEO of Pantera Press, Tammy Anderson, Deputy Principal (Aboriginal Education) as well as representatives from The Smith Family.

The highlight of the event was McReadie Worm, an early years reading program. The McReadie worm sang and danced with the children. An Aboriginal Dance was performed by Airds High School students. The event was very successful, with solid support for the program's growth in the area.

*Warunee Nuij,
Team Leader | The Smith Family, Claymore Airds*

Reading with a Fancy Hat Parade Bribie Island State School - QLD

Students at the school held a fancy hat parade to celebrate the end of term. The students were asked to select a book featuring a hat. After reading the book the students created a hat and then paraded in front of parents and friends wearing their hat and displaying their book. The teachers joined in the fun and the school mascot, Brian Bee, was on hand to present certificates to the best mad hatter on the day.



Brian Bee and Maddy show off their fancy hat

*Kathy Donovan
Bribie Island State School*

Feedback

Have you had a wonderful idea? Developed a great new resource? Overcome a challenge? We'd love to hear about it. Help other *Let's Read* communities to thrive by sending us stories and photos to share in our next newsletter due out in December 2011. Contact us at community@letsread.com.au

