



LET'S READ Newsletter

February 2007



Welcome

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Let's Read newsletter. This edition profiles two exciting launches in Port Stephens and Gladstone which we hope you will find inspiring!



Let's Read Community Annual Reports

After a successful 2006 it is time to tell us all about it! Part of delivering Let's Read requires communities to prepare an annual report outlining how they are progressing with the delivery of Let's Read. A template has been created to simplify this process for you and it has been uploaded onto the secure section of the Let's Read website, www.letsread.com.au. Please feel free to contact your community facilitator for assistance in completing your 2006 annual report.



Upcoming Events

Brimbank City Council will launch Let's Read for children from culturally and linguistically diverse families on March 7th at Sunshine Library. Maternal child health nurses and playgroup facilitators will provide local families with Let's Read resources that have been translated into five languages. The focus at this stage will include Chinese, Vietnamese, Somali, Sudanese and Ethiopian.

The launch will take place on Wednesday 7th March at 11am at Sunshine Library, 301 Hampshire Rd, Sunshine.

Your Input

Please take the time to let us know how things are progressing, so that we can share your experiences with the other communities that are implementing Let's Read. The next edition of the newsletter will be produced in April. Please email your stories to kara.macleod@thesmithfamily.com.au, by April 6, 2007.

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Let's Read Launches in Port Stephens

Approximately 40 children, parents, grandparents and carers joined Port Stephens Library for a morning of storytelling, singing and dancing, to celebrate the community launch of Let's Read at the Health & Community Care Centre in Raymond Terrace on 27th November 2006.



Jacqueline Harrison, The Smith Family Community Program Manager, spoke about the partnership between The Smith Family, Centre for Community Child Health, Shell and Port Stephens Library Service. She emphasised The Smith Family's commitment to early childhood literacy and highlighted the important role parents play in reading to their young children.

The Let's Read Program was officially launched by Port Stephens Councillor Geoff Dingle who recounted tales of reading to his children when they were young, and the joy shared between both parent and child. Councillor Dingle spoke from a personal level about the value of reading aloud with children and the benefits realised by members of his family.

Port Stephens Library, in conjunction with the *Kids Who Read Succeed* program, will coordinate the delivery of Let's Read to parents of more than 2,400 children across Port Stephens. Local businesses and health care providers will assist in raising awareness of Let's Read by displaying promotional material and encouraging parents to visit their local Library branch to collect the resources.

As the inaugural corporate supporter of Let's Read, Shell has generously funded Let's Read resources for the Raymond Terrace community. Resources for the wider Port Stephens community have been purchased through Library Development Grant funding, made available by the State Library of NSW.

Kris Abbott
Library Services Manager
Port Stephens Council





Gladstone Communities for Children launches Let's Read Programme

November 18th 2006 saw the official launch of the Gladstone Communities for Children Let's Read Programme. A fantastic crowd turned out at the newly completed Library Square Park to enjoy the entertainment organised for the day.



Local former radio personality Grant Cooper lent his professional expertise as MC, keeping the day running smoothly. Formal proceedings included guest speakers Mayor, Cr Peter Corones, Mr David Manntan Executive Director of Schools Gladstone District who represented the Gladstone Communities for Children Initiative and Jason Hetherington, former State of Origin Legend.



Children were entranced by two stories read by Anita Rienks (dressed appropriately as "The Old Lady who lived in a Shoe") and were equally entertained when the Bunbury Players enacted the story "Where the Wild Things Are" in street

theatre style. Pirates, Indians, soldiers, and fairies mingled amongst the crowd handing out hats, balloons and free books.

The main drawcard were the Silly Billies. Jumping John, Cosmo and Ophelia the Fairy bopped and sang their way through 45 minutes of fun, engaging the children in silly billy antics.



A sausage sizzle tempted the masses rounding off a successful day for the Launch.

Kathleen Jensen
Port Curtis Education Centre

