



LET'S READ Newsletter

June 2006



About this newsletter

This is the first Let's Read newsletter. This newsletter aims to provide:

- an update in relation to how communities are proceeding with implementing Let's Read
- information from the Let's Read National Office

We are keen to hear from you about activities you are undertaking, how things are proceeding, queries you may have, and being able to share your learnings or queries with other people involved with Let's Read.

We are planning to produce this newsletter every quarter, so you can expect the second edition in September 2006.

Communities involved

We are pleased that the following communities / areas have completed an agreement and on their way to implementing Let's Read:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Taree – NSW | • Bridgehaven – Vic | • Port Adelaide – SA |
| • Narromine – NSW | • Wodonga – Vic | • Birkenhead – SA |
| • Cessnock – NSW | • Corio – Vic | • Deception Bay – Qld |
| • Lismore – NSW | • Warrnambool – Vic | • Mirrabooka – WA |
| • Coffs Harbour – NSW | • Kyabram – Vic | • Burnie – Tas |
| • Dubbo – NSW | • Preston – Vic | • Penguin – Tas |
| • Wellington – NSW | • Bacchus Marsh – Vic | • Devonport – Tas |
| • Parramatta – NSW | • Doveton – Vic | |

Ross Coverdale and Michelle Croker, in their roles as the community facilitators, are having discussions with lots more communities around Australia, finalising their arrangements and they will soon will also be underway.

Books to purchase

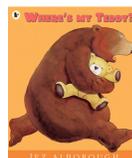
As you know, you can purchase a range of books from the Let's Read National Office.

Two new books are available to be purchased, these being:

- **TIME FOR BED**
By Mem Fox and Jane Dyer
Recommended on the "From 18 months" booklist



- **WHERE'S MY TEDDY?**
By Jez Alborough
Recommended on the "From 3½ years" booklist



Both of these books are included on the DVD. The cost to purchase these books is \$6.00 each.

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Training

Richard Kaa has been very busy travelling to communities to train the community based professionals, preparing them to deliver the Let's Read program to parents on a one-to-one basis. There has now been 229 people trained to deliver Let's Read.



The training sessions always present a valuable opportunity for a wide range of people from the community to get together and learn more about how each other works with families.



Evaluation

When you had completed your agreement to deliver Let's Read you would have received a "Community Guide". This is a very detailed manual giving you information to support you to implement Let's Read.

Within the Let's Read "Community Guide" there is a section related to evaluation, and this supplies you with an extensive list of questions that you could utilise in your community to evaluate Let's Read.



Evaluation is an important part of implementing any program. We encourage you to take the time to look at this material and begin the process at the local level.

Expansion

When Let's Read was initially developed we were not in a position to fully explore the issues related to an early literacy program for the indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. We are now beginning the necessary work to identify the relevant research evidence and undertake community consultations to enable us to conceptualise and/or modify Let's Read to meet the needs of these audiences.

We will keep you informed as this next phase progresses.

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. You can email community@letsread.com.au

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