

A magical celebration

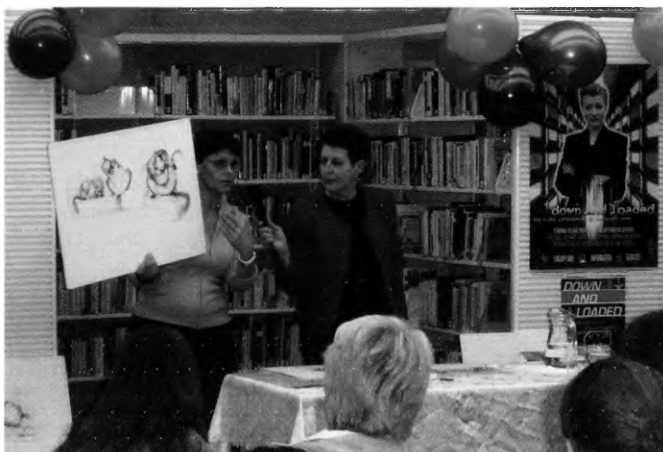
The 21st anniversary of *Possum magic* celebrated during Library and Information Week

There was magic in the air as the Australian Library and Information Association prepared to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the iconic picture book *Possum magic* with Mem Fox and Julie Vivas at Fairfield City Library Service.

An enthusiastic crowd of librarians, teacher-librarians, childcare workers and library clients gathered to enjoy the festivities. ALIA's executive director Jennefer Nicholson spoke about the importance of Library and Information Week and the value of libraries in our society. Leonie Sweeney, manager, people and corporate relations for Scholastic Australia, gave an overview of the 21 years of *Possum magic*: the book has sold more than two million copies, a remarkable feat for an Australian picture book.

Mem Fox and Julie Vivas enthralled the crowd with their dialogue, covering everything from inspiration to perspiration. Julie showed examples of storyboards illustrating the process that she goes through, from reading the story to the finished product. The Mayor of Fairfield, Nick Lalich, offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the city, and Grandma Poss made a surprise appearance, scattering magic stars liberally over a delighted audience. The Mayor, Mem and Julie then cut the 21st cake, designed and made by Fay Rigby, a Fairfield Library staff member.

The formal proceedings were followed by an opportunity to purchase books and have them signed by the author and



Julie Vivas and Mem Fox during the *Possum Magic* 21st anniversary celebrations at Fairfield City Library Service

illustrator. Scholastic Australia also had a copy of the limited edition book for perusal. Everyone was invited to sample the cake and the delicious afternoon tea. The afternoon was punctuated by much laughter and fun — a fitting tribute to Mem, Julie and the book they created. Fairfield Library Service would like to thank ALIA, Scholastic Australia, Mem Fox and Julie Vivas for making the day so special.

Carolyn Bourke, community outreach librarian — children and youth, Fairfield City Library Service

For 21 years *Possum Magic* has captivated and enchanted children and adults. Mem Fox's lovable characters, little Hush and Grandma Poss, and Julie Vivas' exquisite illustrations weave a story of pure magic.

Continuously in print since it was first published by Omnibus Books on 31 March 1983, *Possum Magic* has been embraced as Australia's most-loved children's picture book.



SPECIAL LIMITED EDITION 500 Numbered and Signed Sets

A magnificent limited edition boxed set has been published to commemorate *Possum Magic*'s 21st year. Truly a must-have for children's book collections, this distinctive set includes a Saifu-cloth-bound, dust-jacketed, individually numbered and signed edition of *Possum Magic*, an accompanying 16-page booklet on the making of *Possum Magic*, and an art print numbered and signed by Julie Vivas.

PRICE: \$275 (including GST and delivery)

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- Luxury edition
- From *Mouse to Magic: The Making of Possum Magic*
- Art print

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