

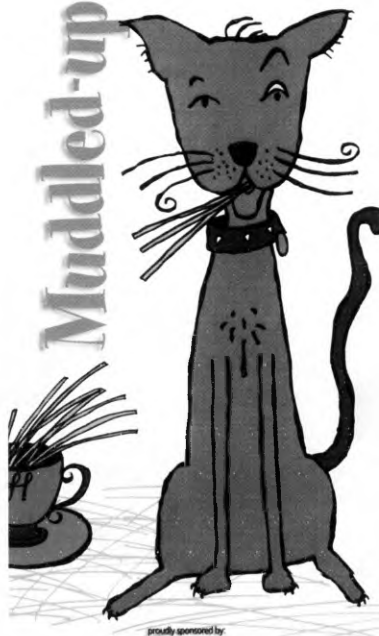
NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

<http://alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/>



Muddled-up farm

Mike Dumbleton
Jobi Murphy



proudly sponsored by



11:00am AEST
3 September 2004

National Simultaneous Storytime 2004 Anything but muddled up!

The response to National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) has been tremendous again. There were more than 230 registered storytime locations, with an estimated storytime audience of more than 40 000. On Friday 3 September, at 11:00am, libraries, schools, pre-schools, community groups, hospitals, and many others, shared the wonderful children's story *Muddled-up farm*, written by Mike Dumbleton and illustrated by Jobi Murphy.

National Simultaneous Storytime was first held during Library and Information Week in 2001. Since 2002, NSS has been held during National Literacy and Numeracy Week (NLNW), and as a result, has achieved a higher profile and increased publicity.

The aims of National Simultaneous Storytime are to promote the value of reading and literacy; promote the value of books; promote an Australian writer and publisher; and to promote storytime activities in public libraries around the country. NSS is a great opportunity to invite parents, grandparents, local politicians and other officials, the press and community groups to participate in and enjoy the occasion. At the same time, it highlights the importance of reading and literacy to children, and demonstrates how this can be a fun experience.

The Association would like to thank our major sponsor for the event in 2004. Australia Post, who have long been associated with National Literacy and Numeracy Week,

recognised the importance of National Simultaneous Storytime in promoting the joy of reading to young children and have provided generous financial support to help cover the costs associated with promoting the event. ■



Two outstanding technicians honoured

Joint winners of the ALIA Library Technician of the Year award announced

This year, for the first time in the award's history, the ALIA Board of Directors has conferred the award of ALIA Library Technician of the Year on two outstanding library technicians. Elizabeth Clarey and Lothar Retzlaff were presented with their awards in August. Both winners have contributed greatly to the advancement of library technicians, have been high achievers in the sector, and are tireless workers for the Association.

Beth Clarey has long been involved with the Association and has actively promoted the role of library technicians in Australia. She has been a vital part of the ACT Technicians group since the group reformed, she has served as convener of that group, and as played an active role on the conference committee for the 1997 Library Technician's conference which was held in Canberra.

She has been mentor and teacher to many students studying at the Canberra Institute of Technology, and has actively encouraged her students to participate in their professional association. In her own work she models a strong work ethic, is supportive of the other technicians with whom she works, and she strongly believes that by contributing to the professional association that she is helping to advance the role of library technicians in Australia.

Lothar Retzlaff is another extremely active member of the Association. He has been convener of the ALIA National Library Technicians group, president of the Western Australian Library Technicians section in 1999, was a member of the 2004 Library and Information Week committee, and is currently on the conference committee for the *neXt 2005: ALIA Library and Information Techni-*

cians' conference to be held in Sydney in 2005. An important initiative, spearheaded by Lothar, was the establishment of the employLT e-list which highlighted the various employment opportunities available to library technicians. Originally focussed on Western Australia, Lothar quickly realised the national importance of the service and he encouraged the National Library Technician's Group to include the employLT e-list in their activities. Lothar was awarded the Dunn & Wilson scholarship in 2003 and will present the findings of his research at the *neXt 2005* conference. His dedication and service to the Association was recognised in 2003 by the presentation of the ALIA Silver Pin.

Congratulations to both winners. The hard work and dedication of both has done a great deal to advance the cause of library technicians in Australia. ■