



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 11 May 2009

Local children to Yell 'Baa Baa!' with 100,000 other Australians

Author of the new children's book to be read at National Simultaneous Storytime *Pete the Sheep*, Jackie French, says she thinks it's a great idea to have a national storytime. "Just think," she says. "At a certain moment hundreds of thousands of people all over Australia are going to be saying 'Baa! Baa!' How can life ever be the same?!"

Local children will be saying the life-changing 'Baa! Baa!' at Yarra Plenty Regional Library's Diamond Valley and Eltham branches on Wednesday 27 May, when they join children all over Australia for a simultaneous reading of *Pete the Sheep*. **Nilumbik Shire Council Mayor Cr Bo Bendtsen** will be encouraging the children to yell 'Baa!' at Diamond Valley Library and **Cr Lewis Brock** will be reading the book to children at Eltham Library. The book tells the story of Shaun the shearer, who, instead of having a sheepdog to help him, has a sheep sheep.

National Simultaneous Storytime is a major highlight of Library and Information Week (25 May – 31 May), which is celebrated every year to highlight the vital role and value of libraries. Last year approximately 110,000 children at over 830 locations took part in the simultaneous reading.

"National Simultaneous Storytime highlights the importance of reading and literacy for children and demonstrates how it can be fun," Yarra Plenty Regional Library Reading and Literacy Coordinator Kerri Pleydell-Sander says.

National Simultaneous Storytime begins at 11.00am at Diamond Valley and Eltham Libraries on Wednesday 27 May. For more information contact Diamond Valley Library on 9434 3809 or Eltham Library on 9439 9266. For more Library and Information Week events see www.yprl.vic.gov.au.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Please contact me on 9401 0755 to organise an appropriate time for pre-event photography.

- Photo of Cr Bo Bendtsen, Mayor, reading Pete the Sheep to children at Diamond Valley Library.
- Photo of Children's librarian Amanda Warneke reading Pete the Sheep to children at Eltham Library

For further information:

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