

Taking storytime where it is needed...

Sick kids get a lift from Mrs Wilkinson's chooks

In the October edition of *inCite* [p38–39] we reported on the outstanding success of National Simultaneous Storytime. The charming story *Mrs Wilkinson's chooks*, written by well-known Australian author Leone Peguero and delightfully illustrated by Mike Spoor proved a big hit with children and readers alike. Libraries, schools and child-care centres around the country took part, and feedback from the event indicates that *Mrs Wilkinson's chooks* was a great choice as it presented many opportunities for storytime activities — face painting, dress ups, and farm yard fun. This month we look at how storytime helped raise the spirits of some very special kids.

Katie Zepps Nursing Library

The Katie Zepps Nursing Library at the NSW College of Nursing decided to participate in National Simultaneous Storytime this year. Children are definitely not clients of the library service, although we do occasionally have young visitors accompanying their nurse mothers to the library. As a former public library branch librarian (in the distant past), I still had fond memories of weekly storytimes.

An initial approach to several pediatric nurses working at the College met with a positive response so we thought 'Let's do it!' We settled upon taking the storytime out to sick children in hospital rather than running it within the library. A children's ward at King George (part of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney) was approached and agreed to let us visit on the day. Materials about the event were forwarded and the play therapists also expressed a wish to be involved.

They took on board the idea of dressing-



Brendan O'Connor, the College Educator for Paediatric Critical Care reads to a patient at the King George Children's Ward

up and they painted the faces and created cardboard chicken beaks, feet and crests for the children who were there. A colouring-in sheet with a scene from the book was provided and a PowerPoint show projected onto the wall with selected characters from the story enhanced the experience for participants.

The nature of the ward meant that we always knew that there was a risk that the number of children able to attend on the day could be limited. This proved to be the case with only several children participating. Naturally, any sleeping children in the ward at the time were not roused for the event. Nevertheless, the nurses on the ward and the College, hospital and library staff found the event most worthwhile and an invitation was extended to return next year. A copy of *Mrs Wilkinson's chooks* and a children's video were donated by the College to the ward's playroom collection.

Graham Spooner, library manager, Katie Zepps Nursing Library, NSW College of Nursing



ACT

• **6/11 ACT Health Libraries forum and ACT Special Librarians.** Joint meeting, Jennifer Nicholson will talk about the LISEKA project: developing a national approach to career-long education of library and information workers for the 21st century. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 6A Traeger Court, Fern Hill Park, Bruce, 12:30–1:30pm. Bring your lunch; tea and coffee available. Contact: Jill Buckley Smith, ph 02 6289 8488, jill.smith@health.gov.au

• **7/11 ACT Specials.** Librarians' Libations at the Kurrajong, from 5:30pm. Contact: Julie Philips, ph 02 6208 5112, jphilips@nma.gov.au

11–12/11 National Resource Sharing Working Group will conduct a Resource Sharing Forum and Field Day at the National Library of Australia. All library decision makers, interlibrary loan and document delivery practitioners are invited. Further details are available at: <http://www.nla.gov.au/rsforum/index.html>

• **13/11 Active ALIA.** Monthly meeting. All members of ALIA in the ACT region are warmly invited to attend. NLA, 5:30pm. Contact Judy Brooker, ph 02 6230 2266, judith.brooker@alianet.alia.org.au

• **25/11 ACT URLs.** Fran Wilson, National Library, and project manager of the 12 month pilot AskNow! service will talk about this interactive, virtual reference service. 4th floor Conference Room, NLA, 12:30pm. Tea/coffee provided, bring your lunch. Contact: Nancy Clarke, URLs secretary, ph 02 6209 1117, N.Clarke@signadocu.acu.edu.au

NSW

14/11 Trimagic Software. *Onto the web.* Sydney. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, trimagic@trimagic.com.au

• **20/11 Children & Youth Services (NSW).** General meeting. Venue tba, 6pm. Contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, mylee.joseph@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

• **March 2003 Children & Youth Services (NSW).** *Switching them on to reading:* books and young children: a one-day seminar featuring bestselling children's author Mem Fox giving the Nancy Booker Honour Lecture. Date: tbc. State Library NSW. Contact: Mylee Joseph, ph 02 9777 7900, mylee.joseph@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

NT

• **20/11 NT Top End.** General meeting. Kormilda College Information Centre (Library), Berrimah Road, Berrimah, 5pm. For further

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