

Tuesday 17 May 2011

Feathery Phoebe helping to promote reading

At 11am on Wednesday 25 May, thousands of children from all around Australia will learn about Phoebe, a plain grey bird, as she searched for ways to make new friends using an array of brightly coloured costumes.

It is part of the 'National Simultaneous Storytime', an initiative of the Australian Library and Information Association, and is run during Library and Information Week to promote reading and literacy among children. Libraries, schools, kindergartens, childcare centres and bookshops will all take part, with 140,000 children expected to read the same Australian children's book simultaneously. Beechworth, Chiltern and Rutherglen libraries are all taking part, and anyone is encouraged to attend.

Feathers for Phoebe, by Australian author Rod Clement, is the 2011 feature book. It is a wonderful Australian tale about self-esteem, self-acceptance and learning that appearances aren't everything.

Rutherglen Library Coordinator Chris Bursill said it is important that all Australian children are involved in reading stories. "The day highlights the importance of reading and literacy for children. Storytime activities show children, parents, grandparents and friends that reading together can be a fun experience. The day promotes not just reading for children, but also public libraries and the services that they offer around the country," Chris said.

The Rutherglen Library will be running National Simultaneous Storytime with guest readers including Anna Hession from Indigo North Health and Helen McKinlay from Arts Rutherglen. Sessions will be held:

- Tuesday 24 May at 11.15am with Rutherglen Playgroup & preschoolers
- Wednesday 25 May at 10.15am with Rutherglen Primary school
- Thursday 26 May at 10am with Rutherglen Kindergarten
- Friday 27 May at 10.15am and 11.30am with Rutherglen Primary School
- And Friday 27 May at 10am with Rutherglen Kindergarten.

****ENDS****

For more information, please contact Chris Bursill at the Rutherglen Library on 02 6032 7427.

Caption: Guest storyteller Frances Walsh was crowd favourite last year, reading to prep students from Rutherglen Primary School.