

State Library of South Australia Media Release



28 August 2023



Photo by Wayne Quilliam. Broome, 2022.

State Library to help children living in remote Indigenous communities to access books

The State Library of South Australia, in partnership with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (IFL), is hosting a Great Book Swap on **Wednesday 6 September 2023**, as part of Indigenous Literacy Day celebrations, between 10am to 4pm.

Everyone is invited to visit the Library on the day to browse our bookstall and take a book in exchange for a note or gold coin. All the money raised helps the Indigenous Literacy Foundation provide new, culturally relevant books to remote Indigenous communities. Access to books in remote communities is challenging, as there are often no libraries or bookstores.

Director State Library of South Australia, Geoff Stempel, says “We are proud to be a part of Indigenous Literacy Day and promote and celebrate reading in the community. The State Library has a First Nations focus and is committed to reconciliation, including supporting literacy programs that help Indigenous people.”

The ILF carefully chooses culturally relevant books with about 50% being by Indigenous authors or illustrators. This is important as it allows the children to see themselves and their culture reflected in the stories, helping to build a sense of connection, belonging and pride.

Proud Indigenous Literacy Foundation Ambassador, Dr Jared Thomas believes in the profound positive outcomes that the ILF makes possible in partnership with Aboriginal people and their communities. He says “Literacy is one of the key ingredients to success in most aspects of a person’s life. Indigenous Literacy Day gives us all the opportunity to ensure that Aboriginal people, especially families in remote communities, have the best opportunity to celebrate and develop their literacy.”

If people can’t make it on the day, they can still help by making a donation on the State Library of South Australia Great Book Swap donation page:

<https://go.greatbookswap.org.au/statelibraryofsouthaustraliagreatbookswap>

Event details:

Event: [Great Book Swap on Indigenous Literacy Day](#)

When: Wednesday 6 September 2023

Time: 10am to 4pm

Where: State Library of South Australia, glass foyer, Cnr North Terrace and Kintore Avenue.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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ABOUT THE STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The State Library of South Australia is the largest public research library in the state and among the most iconic cultural institutions in South Australia. It is home to the historic Mortlock Wing which is consistently voted among the most beautiful libraries in the world.

As custodians of stories, the State Library of South Australia welcomes over half a million visitors a year and plays a significant role in collecting, preserving and making accessible the State's history for current and future generations to enjoy, experience and learn from.

Open 7 days a week, the State Library of South Australia provides 24/7 access that connects people to resources including research and information services. It also hosts events, exhibitions, and curated programs to enrich access to its collections.