



Media release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Music and PJs hit the right note at the library

STUDENTS from the Clarence Valley Conservatorium will perform at the Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre on Tuesday (August 16) from 6-7pm to celebrate the Reading Hour.

Regional librarian, Kathryn Breward, encouraged people to put on their pyjamas and head on down to Grafton's library for stories before bedtime.

Students will perform bedtime stories for younger members who are encouraged to come along in their pyjamas. Some old favourites will be mixed up with books from this year's Children's Book Council shortlist.

Older readers will also be entertained by readings from a range of books.

The Reading Hour aims to spread the simple message: "Share a book for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week, and give the gift of reading."

Ms Breward said hundreds of celebrations were happening in libraries, schools, businesses and homes across the country this year as they heeded that message.

The Reading Hour emerged from the National Year of Reading 2012, and is an ongoing campaign from Love2Read, funded by the ALIA Australian Public Library Alliance and in partnership with the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

Responding to research highlighting Australia's critically low literacy rates and the increased social and economic opportunities for children that are read to from an early age, The Reading Hour initiative reminds parents, caregivers and families that reading together doesn't have to be a massive undertaking in their increasingly busy lives. Rather, it encourages the "anytime, anywhere" mantra, building a foundation in society whereby reading is a gift, given freely.

The National Ambassador for 2016 is Magda Szubanski – one of Australia's most loved TV personalities. Magda Szubanski has a background in comedy, appearing on several sketch shows including Kath & Kim as Sharon Strzelecki. Her first book *Reckoning* recently won the Indie Award for Non-Fiction, Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards and both Biography and Book of the Year at the Australian Book Industry Awards.

Celebrate the Reading Hour:

When: 6-7pm, Tuesday, August 16
Where: Sir Earle Page Library and Education Centre, Grafton
What: Clarence Valley Conservatorium's senior drama student prose readings
Ages: all ages, separate readings for children and adults

For more information www.crl.nsw.gov.au or www.love2read.org.au and facebook.com/love2readAU

Release ends.

For media inquiries contact Clarence Valley Council communications coordinator, David Bancroft, on 6643 0230 or 0429 104 118.