



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

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Attention: Editor/Chief of Staff

Reading challenge comes to South Perth

South Perth children can hear all about wartime life on Rottnest Island and boys dreaming of becoming cricket legends when WA authors Norman Jorgensen and Sally Carbon come to local libraries in January.

Norman will visit South Perth Library on January 21 at 10.30am and Sally will be at Victoria Park Library at 10am on January 30.

The visits are part of the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge, which runs between December 11 and February 9 and is designed to encourage children to read during the school holidays.

Broome born author Norman Jorgensen has worked in the publishing world for the last 25 years and has released several children's books including the award winning tale of a young, homesick soldier, *In Flanders Fields*.

Sally is a former Olympian who co-wrote her latest book with the recently retired Australian batsman Justin Langer.

Her previous books *I want to be an Olympian* and *I want to be a Footballer* also merge fact and fiction in their stories about sporting glory

For the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge, students in Kindergarten to Year 3 are asked to read for 10 hours during the holiday – which is less than 10 minutes each day.

Parents and students in Year 4 to Year 7 have been challenged to read for 15 hours during the holidays – or less than 15 minutes a day.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said reading could open new and exciting worlds for children and parents alike.

"Children who love reading outside of school are more likely to perform well in the classroom," she said.

"And it's never too late to develop a passion for reading, so this year, for the first time, parents can lead by example and enter the Premier's Summer Reading Challenge too."

Children and parents taking part in the challenge can read books, magazines, comics and newspapers or listen to audio books. They can read on their own or together.

“It doesn’t matter what you read, so long as you enjoy doing so,” Ms O’Neill said.

Plenty of prizes are on offer for students who complete the challenge, including:

- iPod shuffles
- signed Fremantle Football Club football
- signed Fremantle Football Club guernsey
- signed Perth Glory guernsey
- Wooldridges book vouchers
- family movie passes
- Walt Disney BOLT merchandise, including plush dogs, stamp sets, watches, USB hubs and t-shirts; and
- High School the Musical (encore edition) DVDs.

Parents taking part in the challenge go in a draw to win a Sony Handycam. Those parents who read to their child also go in a draw to win tickets for two people to a Members Equity Stadium event.

The Premier’s Summer Reading Challenge is sponsored by Wooldridges, Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Australia and Members Equity Bank.

To find out booking details for the author’s visits please call South Perth Library on 9474 0800 or Victoria Park Library on 9361 1977.

For more information, visit www.det.wa.edu.au/readingchallenge

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