

## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 19 October 2017

### SA children set to “Jump and Shout!” for their 2018 FREE Reading Pack

Raising Literacy Australia (RLA) is a not for profit organisation with a vision to enrich Australian lives through literacy. One of its key programs is the Little Big Book Club; a universal reading development initiative that encourages families to read, play, talk and sing with their young children every day to support the development of early literacy and numeracy skills and importantly, a lifelong love of books and reading.

Since 2006, the Little Big Book Club's FREE Reading Pack project has distributed over 370,000 reading bags to South Australian families with children aged from birth to five years, helping to establish home libraries and foster positive parent and child engagement right from the start.

The 2018 Reading Packs feature four new books published by RLA's publishing house *Little Book Press*, including *Jump and Shout!* by Mike Dumbleton and Peter Carnavas; *Wilbur, Grace and Joe* by Phil Cummings and Amanda Graham, *Lullabies for Bed Time* (a compilation of authors including Katrina Germein, Louise Pike, Susan Betts, Phil Cummings, Kerry Brown and Mike Dumbleton) plus a new interactive numeracy book for toddlers, *Busy Little Creatures*.

Raising Literacy Australia CEO, Sue Hill, said she was thrilled with the quality of the picture books that have been produced for inclusion in this year's reading packs and acknowledged the Carthew Foundation for their support in developing the resources.

“The Reading Pack project is a crucial engagement tool with parents and carers in the early years of their child's life. However, the gift of a home library is just the start. The Little Big Book Club program continues to be a trusted voice within the SA community; providing ongoing support to families and the community to promote regular reading with young children”.

Families with a baby, toddler or preschool aged child are eligible to receive a free reading pack from supporting services across SA including Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS), Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) Children's Centre's, specialist neonatal hospitals, government, Catholic and independent preschools and selected outreach services.

Reading Packs will be available from Monday 13 November 2017 and a complete list of collection points can be found on the Little Big Book Club website: [thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/readingpacks](http://thelittlebigbookclub.com.au/readingpacks)

For further information on the Reading Pack project or the Little Big Book Club program, please contact Nicole Marshall, [nicole.marshall@raisingliteracy.org.au](mailto:nicole.marshall@raisingliteracy.org.au) or 0402 296 967.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

### Project aims

- Build awareness of the importance of reading to young children from birth
- Provide families with information on how they can support their child's growth and development in the crucial early years.
- Support positive family engagement through activities such as regular reading, playing, singing and talking
- Develop children's literacy and numeracy skills prior to entering formal education
- Foster a lifelong appreciation of books and reading.

### Key project highlights

- 65,000 home libraries established each year (21,000 Baby, 21,000 Toddler and 23,000 Preschool Reading packs given out to SA families).
- 400 volunteers support the project each year, volunteering their time to help pack the bags during the week of 30 October-3 November 2017 at the State Opera of SA, Netley.
- 700 services across SA are supported with the Reading Packs

### New books in the 2018 Reading Packs

#### BABY READING PACK

##### *Lullabies for Bed Time*

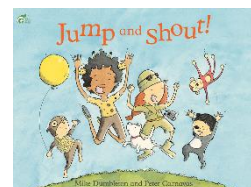
With sweet illustrations and gentle prose from award winning Australian authors and emerging writers, this book features familiar treasures and soon-to-be favourites. This lullaby compilation takes a classic genre into the 21st century and is sure to delight young children at bed time.



#### TODDLER READING PACK

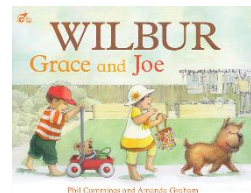
##### *Jump and Shout!*

Clap and cheer on this rollicking adventure with a lively family. Join them as they swing, skip and tumble through the neighbourhood on a joyful day out. A fun rhyming story full of actions, sounds and movement.



##### *Wilbur, Grace and Joe*

When the twins come to live at Wilbur's place, the excitement never ends. Busy days, sleepless nights, adventure days, the trio are always on the go. A heart-warming story about one very endearing dog and two playful children making childhood memories.



##### *Busy Little Creatures*

An engaging book full of busy little creatures sure to delight and fascinate both children and adults. A fun way to explore movement, colours, patterns, sizes and numbers whilst supporting young children's learning and encouraging outdoor play and adventure.

