


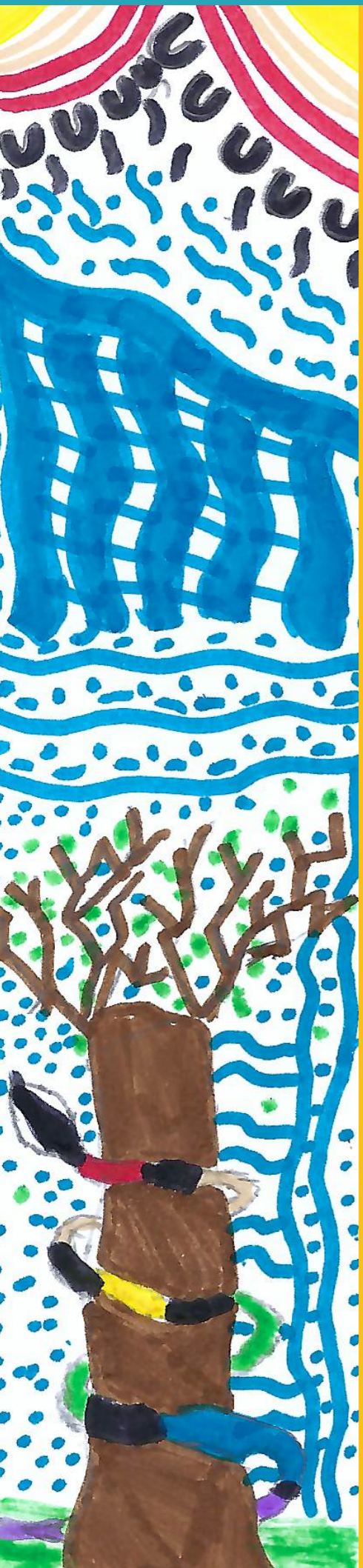


2023

A Year in Review

DYM  CKS  
CHILDREN'S CHARITIES





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Dymocks Children's Charities acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise their continuous connections to Country, community and cultures as well as their stories, traditions and practices.

We acknowledge the long lasting strength and resilience of the peoples that have come before us and the sovereignty of the Traditional Owners of these lands. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Artwork by Murray, age 10  
Library Regeneration program recipient, QLD

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## WHO WE ARE

Dymocks Children's Charities is an independent, Australia-wide charity who provide brand-new books to children in priority locations around Australia.

## WHAT WE DO

We support children who have limited or no access to age-appropriate or relevant books. We do this because children who are exposed to good books and read regularly have better educational outcomes and lead healthier and happier lives.

## OUR HISTORY

Established in 2000, we've been working with communities to improve children's literacy to support over 500,000 children around Australia to date.

**Our Mission:** To promote a love of reading and improve literacy outcomes for children in Australia.



Bayulu Remote  
Community School, WA





From our  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

Dymocks Children's Charities' vision is for every child in Australia to have access to quality books and a literate future. Access to books that inspire, excite and delight children is a vital first step to making this vision, a reality. Beyond providing comfort and entertainment, accessing literacy resources is also strongly linked to how children will perform academically in school through to their employment and the level to which they will be able to fully participate in society.

2023 was another fantastic year for the charity as we furthered our mission to promote a love of reading and improve literacy outcomes for disadvantaged children across Australia. Thanks to the incredible support of our donors, partners, sponsors, and team this year, Dymocks Children's Charities have provided life-changing programs to over 35,000 children.

Whilst it has been a year of growth with new programs, schools, and events, we have also taken the time to reflect and review our strategy and processes to create new efficiencies to support even more children moving forward. We have implemented a new CRM and commenced a significant project to ensure a streamlined ordering system for our program schools and teachers.

The fact that 4 in 10 children in Australia grow up with less than 10 books in their homes coupled with the stretched resourcing of schools resulting in limited library budgets, shows the ongoing relevance and importance of the work we do.<sup>6</sup> We have grown our Book Bank program by over 60% to service 33 schools across all states and territories in Australia.

In a survey looking into the budgets of Australian school libraries, 45% of librarians described their library budgets as insufficient.<sup>1</sup> In the face of this, our Library Regeneration program continues to be our largest program, breathing new life into school libraries in need or in some cases, helping schools create their very first library from the ground up.

Our book club, Lit Club 4 Kids has completely transformed over the past 12 months with over 1,600 members participating nationally. Members are discovering the joy of reading, and embracing new books, authors, and genres.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our Board of Directors, collaborating organisations, funding partners, donors, volunteers, and the Dymocks store network for their ongoing support in 2023.

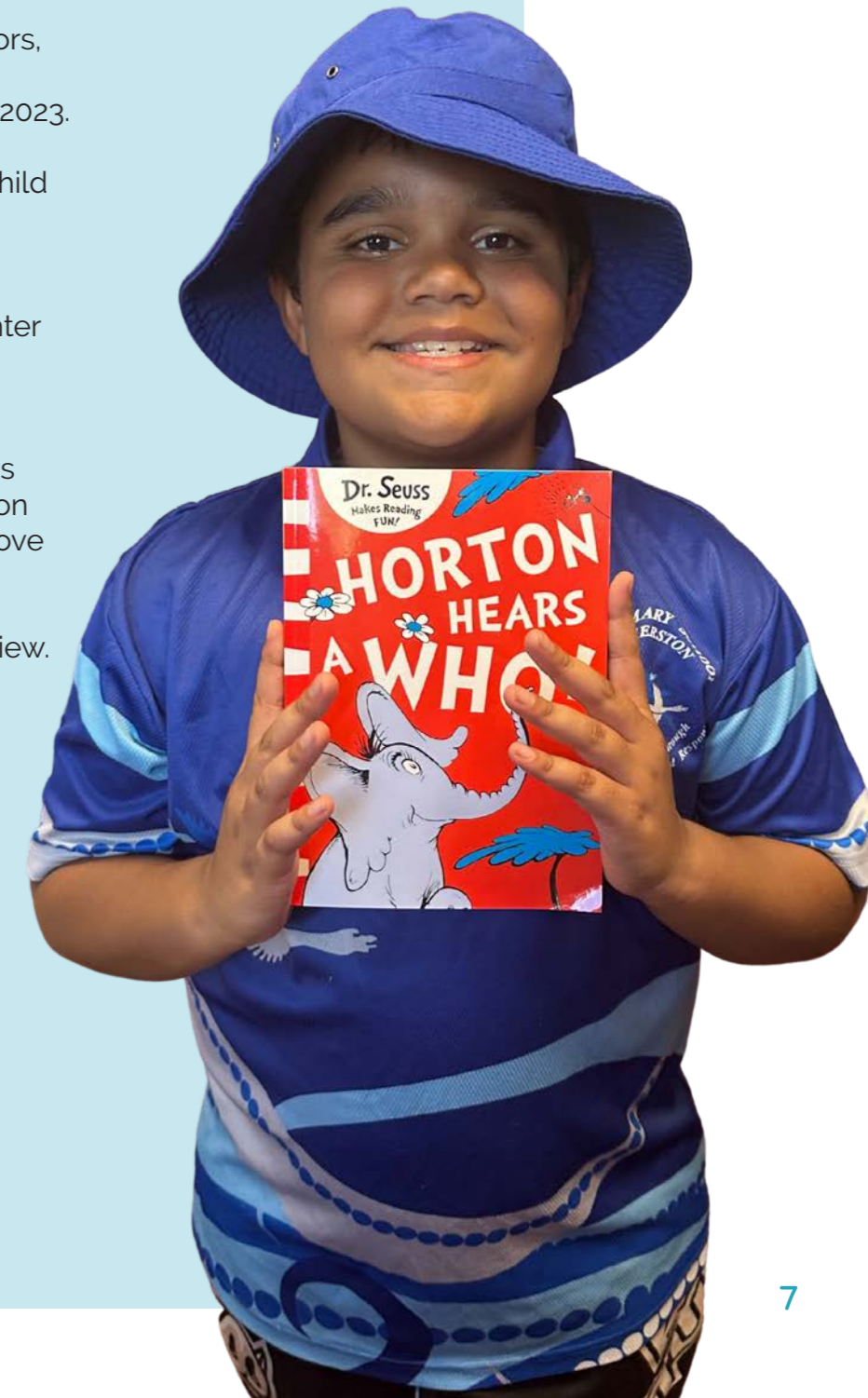
Each book delivered to a school or child represents so much more than just a cover with pages. The 70,000 books delivered represent potential, new beginnings, new hobbies and a brighter future.

Facing a growing cost of living crisis, Dymocks Children's Charities remains committed and focused to our mission to spread a love of reading and improve literacy.

I hope you enjoy our 2023 year in review.

*Melanie*

**Melanie Smith**  
General Manager  
Dymocks Children's Charities





# LITERACY IN AUSTRALIA

Our literacy programs support schools and communities through the delivery of new books and resources. Our criteria identifies schools and communities with the greatest need, with our focus targeting the bottom 25% of schools across Australia.

The children we support have limited or no access to books of their own. A lack of resources at school, no local library or poorly stocked local libraries, combined with financial challenges at home mean access to good books are often unavailable.



Moulden Park School, NT

Disadvantaged children are up to

## 5 years behind

their peers with this gap growing from year 3 to year 9 according to NAPLAN <sup>2</sup>

## 45%

of Australian school librarians indicated that their library budget is "insufficient" <sup>1</sup>

## 1 in 4

year 7 students do not have the required numeracy or literacy skills to start high school. This can have a ripple effect throughout the rest of their schooling years and beyond <sup>5</sup>

## 1 in 5

Indigenous Year 5 students did not meet the national minimum standard for reading <sup>3</sup>

## 12.6%

of Australian adults have literacy skills that are lower than required for participation in work, education and society <sup>4</sup>

## 4 in 10

children in Australia own less than 10 books at home <sup>6</sup>



## OUR PROGRAMS

Dymocks Children's Charities provide three core programs that deliver brand new books to children in priority locations around Australia:

### Book Bank



The Book Bank program supports students by promoting book ownership and fostering a love of reading. Students select a brand-new book each term, every year from a specially curated catalogue of age-appropriate, recent and relevant titles. Students are encouraged to read, swap, and share the books with their classmates and at the end of each term, they keep their chosen book to cherish forever. The program runs for a total of four years. This means by the end of the program, students will have a collection of 16 books that are special and unique to them. Sometimes, these will be the only 16 books they will own in their childhood.

### Library Regeneration



The Library Regeneration program equips school libraries and other important support centres with brand-new books of their choice. The school selects books from a catalogue of 3,000 quality titles to ensure they receive the most suitable books for their students' needs, interests and curriculum. The program breathes new life into libraries and is delivered for a range of reasons including insufficient school funding, schools located in low socioeconomic areas and disaster relief. Due to other needs within the school including in some cases providing food and basic supplies for students, school library budgets are often not able to meet demand. The Library Regeneration program ensures the library is a space where students can feel catered to, safe and valued.

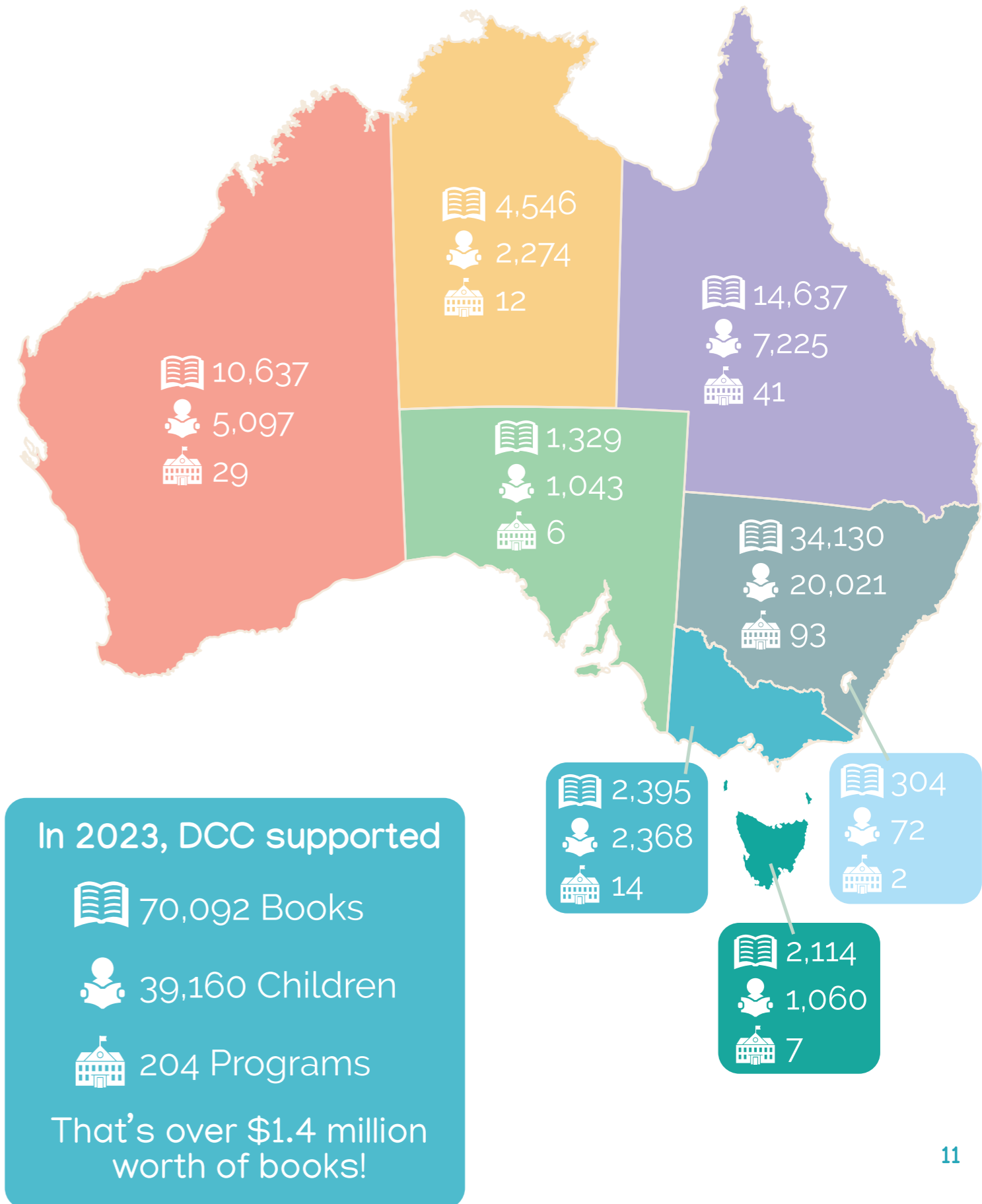
### Read at Home



The Read at Home program extends beyond school environments into children's homes. The program supports children of all ages in priority locations and is often used to support communities through disasters including floods, bushfires and pandemics. Children receive brand new books, educational games, puzzles and activity books to keep, cherish and call their own at home. These items will often act as a distraction for children and provide comfort in the midst of disadvantage. For schools that are not able to offer a school library, the Read at Home program means children can still be supported at home with new books and resources.

Regular access to good books is an important first step towards improving literacy outcomes.

## OUR 2023 IMPACT







Yanderra Public School, NSW

## LIBRARY REGENERATION

Our Library Regeneration program restocks school libraries and other important support centres with brand new books of choice. In 2023, 148 schools and centres were supported through this program.

Schools select their own books from an extensive catalogue of 3,000 titles. Covering a diverse range of genres and subject areas, the books cater for the specific needs and interests of their students as well as the schools' curriculum. This catalogue is continually updated with new and relevant titles to ensure we are offering our schools exciting books their students will love.

One of the many benefits of the Library Regeneration program is that the books can be enjoyed by the school community for years to come. In 2023, our Library Regeneration program schools had a total enrolment of 30,099 students, and this number will continue to rise as new cohorts join the school community.

“Weir State School is situated in an area of highly vulnerable families and much of our resourcing is targeted to student support and wellbeing and managing student complexities. The learning possibilities are now simply endless for our students with quality and updated literature in their hands which has allowed them to reignite their love of books again. Our library attendance has increased and we're seeing the emergence of reading buddies enjoying the reading moments together.

Principal, Weir State School, QLD

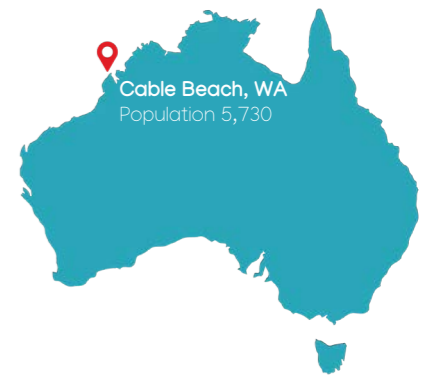
 **52,328** books

 **30,099** children

 **148** schools

## CASE STUDY: CABLE BEACH, WA Library Regeneration

Introducing Cable Beach Primary School, located in Broome Western Australia. Dymocks Children's Charities responded to the school's request for assistance with a delivery of new books for their outdated library. Samantha Price, English teacher applied for the program saying *“we are a very low socioeconomic school with a high Aboriginal population. Not many of our students have access to high quality texts at home. We have limited sets of novels that can be sent home with our students. We try and support our students to read as much as possible as many students aren't able to learn how to read at home and we know that being able to read unlocks a great future for these students in all aspects of life.”*



Cable Beach Primary School received 524 books for the school's 305 students. The longevity and long-term impact of the Library Regeneration program means Cable Beach students for years to come will be able to experience the joy of browsing amazing options to find a book that speaks to them. The school shared the immediate impact of the new books was that *“the students are taking more pride in their learning and school now that the library is great. The library is the heart of any school!”*

“Before you sent us these books, our library was a sad place and not fun to visit. We did not have many books to choose from and we had already read most of the books we had. Now we love visiting the library.

Bethany and Cole, Year 5

 **524** books

 **305** children







Katherine High School, NT

## TOP 10: LIBRARY REGENERATION

We analysed the most ordered Library Regeneration titles from 2023. These books are ordered by teachers and librarians to cater for their specific school community, needs and requirements. We loved that all of the top 10 books were Australian titles, seven of which were written by Indigenous authors.

1	2	3	4	5
Jacaranda Primary Atlas Australian Curriculum Edition	The First Scientists by Corey Tutt	Come Together by Isaiah Firebrace	My Girragundji by Meme McDonald and Boori Pryor	Deadly Science Bundle (Eight Pack)
6	7	8	9	10
Macquarie Primary Dictionary & Primary Thesaurus 2E	Somebody's Land: Welcome to Our Country by Adam Goodes and Ellie Laing	Black Cockatoo by Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler	We Are Australians by Duncan Smith and Nicole Godwin	Aussie Kids: Meet Sam at the Mangrove Creek by Brenton McKenna and Paul Seden

## What books can you find in our Library Regeneration catalogue?

Dymocks Children's Charities gives children, teachers and schools the opportunity to select brand-new books that genuinely excite and inspire them.

Our specially curated catalogue has 3,000 titles across all genres and reading levels. Teachers and librarians can choose the books they need for their school based on the following:

- their cohort's reading age and interests
- popular titles that are missing in their collection
- books aligned with curriculum
- building classroom book sets

Our programs team work directly with 19 publishers to curate an extensive, diverse and up-to-date booklist. We work with large international publishing houses for popular titles, classics and new releases as well as smaller, independent publishers.

We include popular bundles to assist teachers with their selections. Some of these bundles include a Children's Laureate Bundle featuring books from the 2022-2023 Laureate, Gabrielle Wang and a Deadly Science Bundle by Corey Tutt OAM. Dymocks Children's Charities is proud of our partnerships with bodies including the Children's Book Council Award (CBCA) and Australian Children's Laureate Foundation (ACLF) to ensure the best possible selection of books is available to our schools.

A big thank you to all of our publishing partners:




## BOOK BANK

Book Bank is Dymocks Children's Charities' longest running program. The program has historically supported children in years 3-6 and allows students to choose a brand-new book each term (four per year), every year, for four years.

Students are able to take the books home to keep and cherish forever. They are also encouraged to share their books with their classmates and discuss the books.

Our Book Bank program centres around the idea that children will read if the books they have access to speak to their personality and interests. Through the program, children are given agency and choice to select books from a catalogue with nearly 400 titles. With a mix of fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels and more there's something for everyone!

We welcomed 12 new schools into the Book Bank program in 2023 to support an additional 1,200 children year on year.



The children at our school are mostly from a low-socioeconomic catchment, so they likely have very few, if any novels at home. The benefits of the program include the children sharing the books with each other and discussing the books.

Teacher, Picton Primary School, WA

**17,154** books

**4,616** children

**33** schools



Gayndah State School, QLD



Picton Primary School, WA

## TOP 10: BOOK BANK

We analysed the Book Bank student's book selections from 2023 and the following titles emerged as our most popular books of the year.

- 1 Pig the Rebel by Aaron Blabey
- 2 Matilda by Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake
- 3 Pig the Monster by Aaron Blabey
- 4 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth Book 5 by Jeff Kinney
- 5 The Bad Guys Episode 16. By Aaron Blabey
- 6 The Tryout by Christina Soontornvat
- 7 Dog Man: Mothering Heights Book 10 by Dav Pilkey
- 8 Cat Kid Comic Club: Book 1 by Dav Pilkey
- 9 The Bad Guys Episode 15 By Aaron Blabey
- 10 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl



## BOOK BANK CASE STUDY: Claymore Public School, NSW

For Claymore Public School, the Book Bank program is one of the only opportunities for the students to build a personal collection of books. Teacher, Amy Robinson shared *"The Book Bank program gives our students the opportunity to have access to books at home, which is something that is often taken for granted and something that our students quite often do not have. In our setting, books are often not prioritised with the cost of living for our families, so this is such a valued opportunity for our students to be able to have quality books in their home. The Book Bank program has promoted an interest in reading and increased engagement in reading, which has then supported higher interest and attendance at our school library."*

Located in Sydney's south west, Claymore Public School sits in the bottom 9% of schools in Australia in accordance with the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA).



The spirit of the school is infectious with a thriving book club, incredibly passionate teachers and enthusiastic students. Parents of the school have shared the gratitude they feel that the Book Bank program is able to bridge a gap to ensure their children don't miss out on reading great books.

With a personal collection of 16 books by the time Year 6's graduate from Claymore Public School, the program has energised the school community with flow on effects including increased school attendance and library engagement.



Our students often do not have access to books at home, so for them to have the opportunity to read brand new books and keep them, has generated a keen interest in reading. Students are now often reading these books in class and on the playground or in the library at lunch times.

Teacher, Claymore Public School

Scan QR or click to see Claymore's story



**665**  
books



**134**  
children





## READ AT HOME CASE STUDY: Cabbage Tree Island Flood Relief, NSW

Dymocks Children's Charities and SchoolAid partnered together to support the Cabbage Tree Island community through their flood recovery efforts in 2022-2023. Cabbage Tree Island Public School is in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales which experienced intense rainfall and as a result the entire island was submerged.

With the generous support of donors, SchoolAid donated \$22,000 towards flood relief for Cabbage Tree Island Public School which was matched by Dymocks Children's Charities to offer a substantial Library Regeneration program valued at over \$44,000. The program included brand-new books, puzzles and games to bring comfort, distraction and support to a community who had lost everything.

Cabbage Tree Island School was able to re-open their school in a temporary Wardell campus location. Ready to welcome the students back at school was over 1,500 books while other books and games were already bringing comfort to families in homes. Commenting on the impact of the program, school principal Dyonne Anderson shared "Our library now has books that students can read, and teachers can use in their classrooms. Our school lost all its resources in the flood, so the program is greatly appreciated. It allows students to have access to books after 9 months with very few books."

“ We have to rebuild our whole library, so these books are extremely important to get us started in our rebuild. The program contributes to the students health and wellbeing which is a focus for our school especially at this time.

Principal, Cabbage Tree Island Public School

 **30**  
children

 **1,773**  
books

 **221**  
games



Talbingo Public School, NSW

## LIBRARY BOOST PROJECT

Throughout Term 3 and 4, the Library Boost Project challenged schools across Australia to fundraise and blast off with brand-new books. The Library Boost Project empowers school communities to take an active role in fundraising for books for their library as well as a school in need.

As part of the project, schools and community groups were encouraged to organise a fundraiser of their choice. This year we had 17 amazing schools join the fun and some of the creative fundraisers we saw included:

- Bake Sales
- Book Sales and Stores
- Book Week Character Parades
- Special Lunch Days
- Pyjama Dress Up Days
- Read-a-thons



The 2023 Library Boost Project saw some incredible moments of school spirit and community support.

Thank you to all of the school and individual fundraisers for their generous support of The Library Boost Project.

 **\$15,030**  
raised

 **17**  
fundraisers





El Arish State School, QLD



## THE GREAT DEBATE GALA

The Great Debate is our biggest night of the year and is an opportunity to showcase the work of Dymocks Children's Charities while raising much-needed funds to support our programs. Our 2023 Great Debate Gala raised a record-breaking \$431,900!

Led by charity Ambassadors Adam Spencer & Rob Carlton, the topic for the 2023 debate was "The world needs more celebrity memoirs". Adam and Rob were joined by an outstanding line-up of celebrity personalities including Candice Fox, Dom Knight, Rachel Spratt and Tony Burke. We were also joined on the night by Gorokan Public School Principal, Jesmond Zammit and a panel of amazing students. Sharing how our Book Bank program has sparked their love of reading, it was so special to recognise the long-term partnership between Gorokan Public School and Dymocks Children's Charities.

The lively banter of The Great Debate was interspersed with an exciting live auction and opportunities to bid on luxurious silent auction items. Thank you to the sponsors, donors, partners and guests who helped make our 2023 Great Debate, our biggest and best yet.

The Great Debate was proudly sponsored by:







## THE INSPIRED READERS FESTIVAL

The magic of books took over the City of Armidale on the 13th - 14th November 2023 thanks to our very first Inspired Readers Festival. Dymocks Children's Charities brought an amazing line-up of authors as local schools from the New England region joined the two-day event at UNE. The festival was headlined by best-selling, Australian children's authors Jacqueline Harvey, Oliver Phommavanh, Nat Amooore and Tristan Bancks.

With 600+ excited students across the two days, the Inspired Readers Festival was filled with inspiring and entertaining author talks, amazing book-signings and lots of fun memories.

The festival welcomed a mix of schools including 15 schools who were sponsored by Dymocks Children's Charities to give their students amazing literacy experiences they otherwise could not afford. The sponsorship involved giving each student a book of their choice for them to participate in the personalised author book-signing element of the day which was a highlight for most. In our survey, 100% of attending schools said they would love to attend the festival in the future and that the event made a meaningful difference to their students.

Joshua from St Joseph's School Uralla shared "I actually thought it was going to be really boring, but boy was I mistaken! It was so entertaining that I didn't want to leave the seat even to go to the bathroom! At the end of the day I was inspired to read the Kensy and Max series by Jacqueline Harvey and the Tom Weekly series by Tristan Bancks."



The Inspired Readers Festival was proudly supported by:



717 books



600+ children



21 schools

INSPIRED READERS FESTIVAL







## THE INSPIRED READERS FESTIVAL THE BOOK END PARTY

The Inspired Readers Festival Book End Party was a free community event to celebrate the magic of reading and close out the two-day festival extravaganza! The event featured a special sneak peak of Jacqueline Harvey's new book, Kevin the Sheep, amazing performances by Oliver Phommavanh and Nat Amore, lawn games, arts and crafts, a raffle, book store, scavenger hunt, art gallery competitions and more!

Hosted at the beautiful UNE Armidale campus, the Book End Party was designed to spread a love, appreciation and joy of reading to the entire community. Many students who attended the school session returned hungry for more literacy fun with our stellar author line up!

The inaugural Inspired Readers Festival was fantastic! Lots of enthusiastic students and some who thought they would be bored but ended up having a brilliant time – that's got to be one of the best outcomes for events like this. I've been a proud Ambassador for Dymocks Children's Charities for nine years now and to see them first hand reaching children in rural communities is wonderful. We know that reading is so important and books change lives.

Jacqueline Harvey, Inspired Readers Festival Author, Dymocks Children's Charities Ambassador

The Inspired Readers Festival is all about connecting kids to book creators. The impact that can have on a kids' desire to read cannot be underestimated. If you want to get kids reading, THIS is the way to do it!

Nat Amore, Inspired Readers Festival Author, Dymocks Children's Charities Ambassador



## INSPIRED READERS FESTIVAL BOOK END PARTY



## DYMOCKS STORE GIVING

The support of the Dymocks store network has raised over \$241,000 in 2023. Together with their customers, Dymocks is a proud primary partner of Dymocks Children's Charities and a champion for children's literacy.

A dollar makes a  
difference

Throughout the year, the Dymocks team collect vital donations for Dymocks Children's Charities through customer's \$1 donations at the register. Under the campaign 'A dollar makes a difference', Dymocks make a substantial difference to children in need and raise important brand awareness around the work the charity does.

**GIVING**  
day  
8 September 2023

September 2023 saw the launch of our inaugural Giving Day in partnership with Dymocks Books and Gifts. This was our first time hosting a matched donation day and what a success it was, raising over \$52,500 for literacy programs for children in need through matched giving as well as online and in-store donations. Held on International Literacy Day, the Giving Day was an amazing opportunity to display our historic relationship with Dymocks who matched all donations up to \$10,000. It was incredible to see Dymocks stores across Australia celebrate by decorating with our charity teal and yellow!

Dymocks  
Chermside, QLD





# LIT CLUB 4 KIDS

## Free Online Book Club

The Lit Club 4 Kids book club inspires children aged 8 - 13 years in their love of reading,

Dymocks Children's Charities select a new book every 3 months with each book being accompanied by lots of creative activities, resources and detailed teacher notes. Each book also includes an exclusive online Q&A event with the author just for Lit Club 4 Kids members.

The diverse range of authors and books selected each uniquely offered insights into the wild world of children's books. By the end of 2023, the book club membership base grew 190% year on year to over 1,600 members. The four featured books in 2023 were:

- January – March *Dusty in the Outwilds* by Rhiannon Williams
- April – June *Jane Doe and the Cradle of All Worlds* by Jeremy Lachlan
- July – September *Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon* by Gabrielle Wang
- October – December *Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt*

2023 Lit Club 4 Kids Sponsors:



Penguin  
Random House  
Australia

**1.6K+**  
members

**15K**  
website visitors

**27K**  
page views

Join [litclub4kids.com.au](http://litclub4kids.com.au) today!



# MEMBER BOOK REVIEWS



Dusty in the Outwilds is a fun, creative and magical book full of adventures. Readers get lost in the words, always wondering what is going to happen next. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves reading!

Blake, Lit Club 4 Kids Member, Year 4



My favourite bit of Jane Doe and the Cradle of All Worlds was all of it. It was so good I stayed up all night reading! The book was so good I couldn't take my eyes off it! I can't wait to read the other books.

Alice, Lit Club 4 Kids Member, Year 4



Zadie Ma and the Dog Who Chased the Moon melted my heart. It's a story full of love, kindness and also hate that was happy and sad at the same time. I couldn't help hugging this book to my heart when I finished, wanting to keep it with me always. It is now sitting on my favourite book shelf.

Ellie, Lit Club 4 Kids Member, Year 8



I usually am not a big fan of humorous books, but I loved Bedtime Stories with R.A. Spratt because it is SO smart and SO funny that my parents had to come into my room to make sure I'm okay because I'm cackling like a witch!! I can't wait for the next book.

Charlotte, Lit Club 4 Kids Member, Year 5





Grafton Public School, NSW



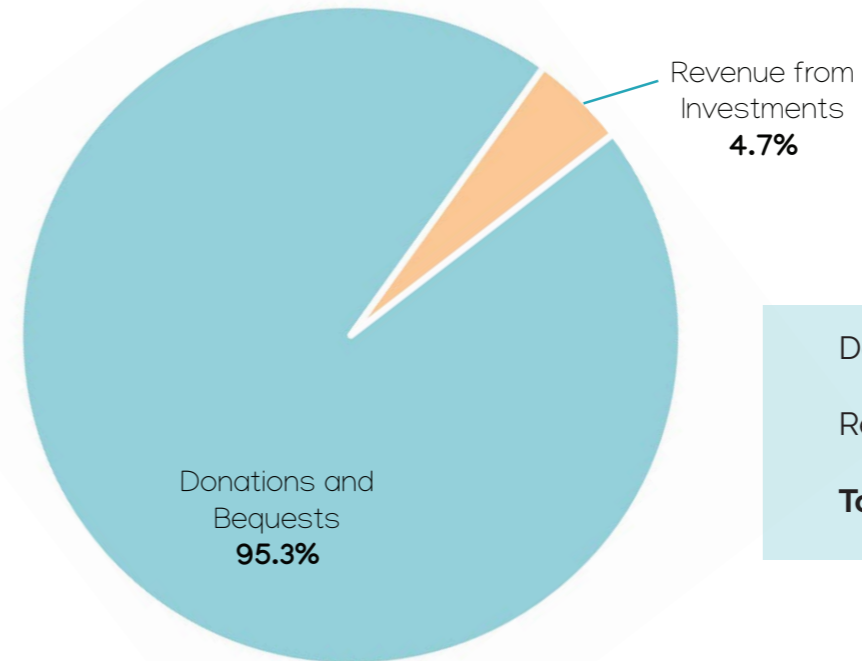
## ACCOUNTABILITY

Dymocks Children's Charities is registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) and our audited accounts are published annually.

The FY23 Financial Report is available to [view here](#).

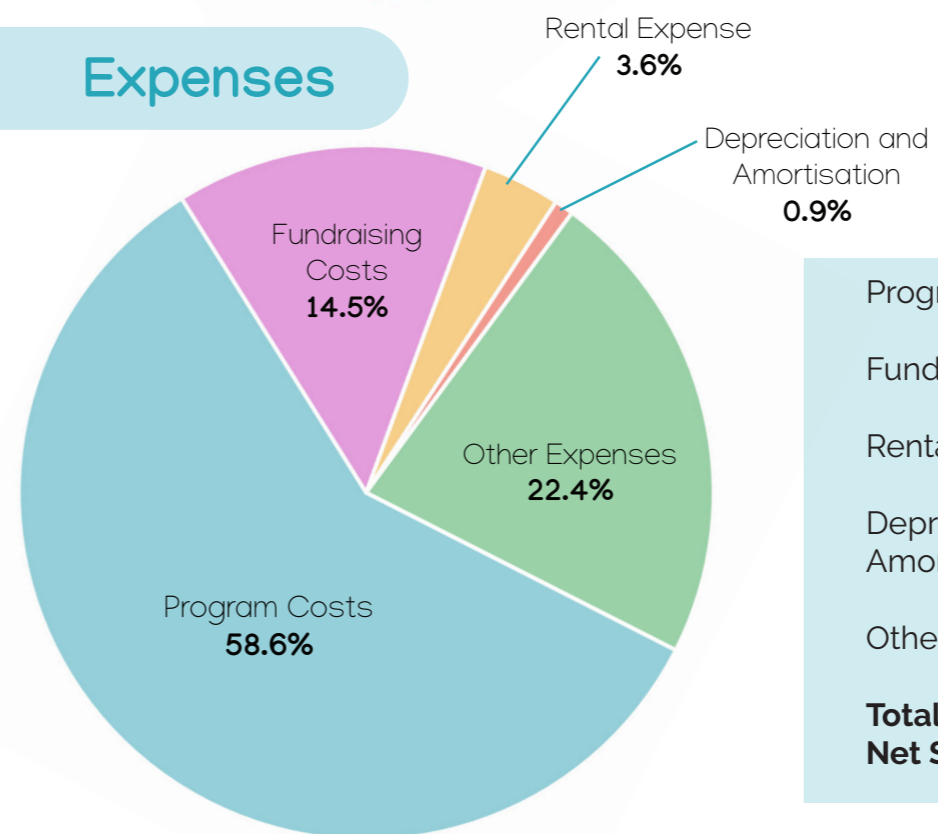
**Appointed Auditor:** Ernst & Young

### Revenue



Donations and Bequests	\$1,417,409
Revenue from Investments	\$69,177
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,502,389</b>

### Expenses



Program Costs	\$827,178
Fundraising Costs	\$204,824
Rental Expense	\$50,979
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$12,583
Other Expenses	\$316,169
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,411,688</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>\$74,898</b>



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ROBERT DUNLOP, CHAIRMAN

Robert joined Macquarie in 1991. In 2021, Robert was appointed Chairman of Macquarie Capital, Macquarie Group's global investment banking team. This is in addition to his appointment as Chairman of the Critical Minerals & Energy Group at Macquarie in 2014. During Robert's career at Macquarie, he has been involved in the energy sector for the vast majority of this time. He has also served as Global Head of Macquarie's Natural Resources Group, Executive Director of Quadrant Energy and a member of the Victorian Governments Infrastructure Planning Council. Robert holds degrees in Science, Economics (Sydney); Masters of Economics (Macquarie University), as well as being a member of Australian and NZ Chartered Accountants and FINSIA. He was appointed Chairman of the Dymocks Children's Charities Board in December 2023.

### MARK NEWMAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mark was appointed Managing Director for Dymocks Booksellers and Dymocks Children's Charities in May 2020. He has over 30 years' experience in international retail, in the UK, Japan, Asia Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. He has held senior leadership positions with the Richemont Luxury Group, Ralph Lauren, GAP and Orotan Group. He has been both a Franchisee for GAP and a Franchisor at Richemont.

### CATERINA TIBERIO, TREASURER

Caterina holds a Bachelor of Business (Credit) from The University of Technology Sydney. She is a Chartered Accountant with nearly 30 years' experience. Caterina was the CFO of the Dymocks Group of Companies for 3 years before being appointed as Finance Director from 2005. She was appointed Managing Director for Dymocks Property in March 2012 and has been on the Dymocks Children's Charities board since 2003.

### EMMA DIGIACOMO, DIRECTOR

Emma is a senior marketing leader with over two decades of experience in Marketing, Advertising & Business Development, both in Australia, the UK and USA. Her career spans several sectors including Destination Tourism, Retail, FMCG and Hospitality. Emma has had the opportunity to work across a range of premium clients and high-profile brands including Coca Cola, Procter & Gamble, Westpac, Google, The City of Sydney & Taronga Zoo. She is currently responsible for spearheading the marketing efforts for LK Hospitality Group (which includes 2 x 2 hatted restaurants in its portfolio) and has been a Director for Dymocks Children's Charities since 2020.

### GEOFF NEWCOMBE AM, DIRECTOR

RETIRED

Geoff was appointed Chief Executive of Association of Independent Schools NSW in January 2005. From 1997 to 2005 and since 2013 he was Director of Non-Government Schools Superannuation Fund (NGS Super). Geoff was appointed to the Board of the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership in 2009 and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Education at the University of NSW in 2011. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2017 and a Non-Executive director to Dymocks Children's Charities in February 2017. Geoff retired from the Dymocks Children's Charities board in August 2023.

### JANELLE FYSON, DIRECTOR

Janelle was the Manager at QBD Books before she became the Franchise Owner of Dymocks Toowoomba. Since owning her own store over six years ago, she has gone from strength to strength. Janelle was elected to the Dymocks Franchise Business Development Council in 2021. Janelle has been on the Board of Directors for Dymocks Children's Charities since December 2020 and brings with her, excellent insight into the charity's collaboration with Dymocks stores.

### KAYLIE SMITH, DIRECTOR

Managing Director, APAC for Time Out Group where she leads strategy, business and product efforts across the region. Before joining Time Out Kaylie was the Director of Small and Medium Business for Facebook Inc., in Australia and New Zealand and Managing Director for Instagram APAC. She previously spent 20 years in Advertising Technology in various leadership and product roles. She has been a Director for Dymocks Children's Charities since May 2020.

### PAUL NICOLAOU, DIRECTOR

Paul is the Executive Director of Business Sydney. He was formerly the Director of Business Leaders Council – Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Director of Corporate & Community Solutions, Non-Executive Director of Estia Foundation, Non-Executive Director of The Gut Foundation, Non-Executive Director of UNSW Hellenic Studies Foundation, Non-Executive Director of the Australian Marketing Institute and Non-Executive Director of Australasian Society of Association Executives. Paul has been a Dymocks Children's Charities Director since November 2016.

### ROBERT WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR

Robert is an accomplished consultant who has worked for the past 32 years in large scale private and public sector projects across Australia and Asia Pacific. Robert holds a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) from Sydney University and a Master of Business Administration from Macquarie University. Robert was elected to Chairman of Dymocks Children's Charities in November 2016. Since then, Robert has guided the charity as we have significantly grown year on year and through the challenges of a global pandemic. Robert stepped down as Chairman of the Board at the end of 2023 but continues his work as Director.

### SHANE LLOYD, DIRECTOR

Following a successful career in financial services and retail, Shane devotes his time to the not-for-profit charity sector with a particular focus on disadvantaged and marginalised children and youth as well as the LGBTI community. Previously having served as Director of Merchandise during the Australian Marriage Equality Campaign and State Chair for the NSW Committee of The Pinnacle Foundation, Shane continues to proudly serve as a Director of Dymock's Children's Charities.





# THANK YOU!

## Program Partners and Supporters



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# OUR TEAM

- Melanie Smith** General Manager
- Zoe Nelson-Carey** Corporate Partnerships Development Manager
- Corrine Lawrence** Fundraising and Events Coordinator
- Megan Harte** Marketing and Communications Officer
- Amelia Liew** Client Services and Programs Leader
- Melanie Malakou** Client Services and Programs Coordinator



Cressy District High School, TAS



Gray Primary School, NT



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Artwork by Janeeva, age 10  
Library Regeneration program recipient, QLD





# DYMOCKS

CHILDREN'S CHARITIES



## A Year in Review



[dymockschilchildrenscharities.org.au](http://dymockschilchildrenscharities.org.au)



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