

Oberon Readeo



Background

The 2006 Oberon Readeo was a community project developed and supported by local schools, Community Health workers, Oberon Interagency members, local business houses, media and community groups, interested individuals and the Oberon Council Library.

Inspired by the success of the "Birth to Kinder" program expanded over the last 10 years in Parkes, which has demonstrated success in improving their children's literacy levels – and been a lot of community fun, a group of local people thought we'd have a go here and the "Readeo" concept was born.

Aims

- To promote literacy by encouraging parents and carers to read to their children from birth
- To foster the enjoyment of books in children
- To strengthen the bonds between parents/carers and their children through the sharing of literature – for fun and learning.
- To demonstrate to children that adults enjoy reading too
- To foster cooperation between groups within the community and engage families

The Project

The Readeo consists of a reading day in the main street where groups of school children with their teachers and helpers and preschoolers with their carers move between shops, parks, the Council Chambers and footpaths and are transfixed by a wide range of local grownups reading stories to them. The event is made special by dressing up to the reading cowboy theme and having a giant sausage sizzle and the giveaway of picture books.

The Readeo also provided the launching pad for the library's 'Books for Babies' project and now each new baby born to the shire receives a kit containing a picture book, an introduction to the library, easy to follow information on enjoying reading with your child, health and welfare information for families and other giveaways.

Feedback

Community support has been continuously overwhelming, with most readers keen to participate every year. Adults, as well as children, enjoy the day and many expressed their appreciation, especially commenting that its not often they can join in an event for free and be given something to take home!

The positive feedback reinforced the need for such projects to bring the town together as well as to promote literacy.

If you are interested in participating – be it sharing ideas, planning expertise, catering, promotion or of course reading stories, please contact Jenny at the library on (02) 6336 0012 or library@oberon.nsw.au.