



# Media Release



## Meet Hairy Maclary and his posse of pooches at the State Library of NSW

24/10/2014

When a scruffy black dog by the name of Hairy Maclary leapt off the page and out of the gate 35 years ago, little did its owner know what a huge sensation he would cause even to this day!

Inspired by the madcap humour of Dr Seuss, Lynley Dodd's popular rhyming picture books about dogs and cats have sold in the millions and catapulted Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy to an international star in the eyes of children and grown-ups alike.

From 1 November 2014 the magic of Hairy Maclary, Slinky Malinki, Scarface Claw and friends come to life in a major exhibition at the State Library of NSW featuring 50 original drawings of beloved characters by the award-winning children's book author.

*Lynley Dodd: A Retrospective* is more than an exhibition about cats and dogs, it is the story of the talented New Zealand-born artist, her education and rise to being one of the world's most popular children's writers and illustrators.

Lynley worked as an art teacher for five years before taking up freelance illustrating, including cartooning for newspapers in the 1970s. During this time she illustrated *My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes*, co-created with her relative Eve Sutton, and remarkably it is still in print today.

The first of her own picture books was *The Nickle Nackle Tree* (1976), and more than 30 books have since followed including the enormously popular Hairy Maclary series. In 1979, while living in Lower Hutt, Lynley made a small sketch of a rather unkempt dog and Hairy Maclary was born, changing her life forever and bringing joy to bedtime reading for so many.

"I will always have a soft spot for Hairy Maclary though at times he needs reigning in as he gets ever so slightly out of control," says Lynley, who loves to spoil her fiendish Burmese cat Suu Kyi, but wouldn't say no if a dog came into her life.

*Lynley Dodd: A Retrospective* will appeal to people of all ages, with drawings from her first work dating back to school days, through to her latest book, *Slinky Malinky, Early Bird*, 2012. Younger visitors can get comfy in the exhibition reading room for storytime and a craft activity at 10.30am every Wednesday, or watch their favourite Hairy Maclary animated tale.

Dame Lynley Dodd is visiting Sydney in November to guest star at the State Library's **free family fun day**. Join in the fun with storytelling, face painting, craft activities and

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film screenings. Come dressed as your favourite Lynley Dodd character and join in the dress up parade. **Details: Saturday 22 November, 10am to 4pm, State Library of NSW.**

*Lynley Dodd: A Retrospective* is a touring exhibition from Tauranga Art Gallery, New Zealand and is on show at the State Library of NSW from 22 November 2015 to 15 March 2015.

**For more information, interviews and images, please contact:**

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