

Media Release



Ngara
Yar-re
Gna
HEAR
SAY
SEE

State Library launches its first storybook in Indigenous languages

28/6/2017

The State Library of NSW has kicked-off its NAIDOC Week (3 to 9 July 2017) celebrations **TODAY** by launching a new free online storybook written and spoken in five Aboriginal languages from across NSW.

The heart-warming story titled *My Weekend with Pop - Stories in Aboriginal Languages* has been told in Paakantyi, Gamilaraay, Dharawal, Wiradjuri, Gumbaynggirr. Each edition includes audio of community members telling the story in language, with English translations available as well.

“This is a wonderful resource. While designed for school students with accompanying learning tools, all five stories are freely available to anyone wanting to learn more about these Indigenous languages,” says acting NSW State Librarian & Chief Executive, Lucy Milne.

The State Library partnered with community members as well as the Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) to develop *My weekend with Pop*. The story also features beautiful illustrations by Aboriginal artist and designer Lucy Simpson.

“This is the second project we’ve worked on with Lucy Simpson. Her stunning contemporary designs are full of life and create a visual narrative that connects readers to the story and the language,” says Kirsten Thorpe, Manager of Indigenous Services at the State Library of NSW.

The *My weekend with Pop* launch is the latest in a range of State Library programs that are helping to support the revitalisation of Indigenous languages. In 2011, the State Library embarked on a landmark project to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language materials held within the Library’s extensive collection. Since then the Library has worked to connect communities across NSW with language materials held in the Library’s archive, and helped them to showcase their language and engage audiences.

“There are over 50 language groups within NSW and so this project represents only a portion of the Aboriginal languages spoken within the State. We are hoping to add more languages as the project continues and encourage any communities interested in adding their language to contact us,” says Ms Thorpe.

* Pronounced
nya-ra yar-ri nya
Sydney language

from the notebooks of
William Dawes, 1790–91
SOAS Library
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The book launch is the first event in the Library's winter-long celebration of Indigenous languages in NSW called *Ngara Yar-re Gna (Hear Say See)*. Starting with NAIDOC week and continuing until August 2017, the Library will be a hub of activity showcasing the strength and diversity of Indigenous languages in NSW with a series of displays, kids' activities and events.

For more information about the State Library' 2017 NAIDOC week program, visit: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/NAIDOC2017

Read *My weekend with Pop* online here: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/my-weekend-pop

Kirsten Thorpe is available for interviews.

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