

# SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



**May 2025 Term 2**



## Message from the Head of Campus

Dear SOTA Families,

Welcome back to Term 2! We've had a busy and exciting start to the term, with our Year 5/6 students travelling to Canberra in Week 1. A very warm welcome also to Mr Steven Kelly, who has joined the SOTA team—we are thrilled to have him on board.

As we look ahead, preparations for the upcoming Woodhouse Camp are well underway. We understand that the recent floods may affect some families' ability to attend. Please know that we are closely monitoring the situation, and once roads reopen and it is safe to do so, we will resume planning for itinerant visits. In the meantime, if there is anything SOTA can do to support your family, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I am continuing to work closely with Julie and our teaching team to establish a sustainable student support model for SOTA. We are exploring some innovative ideas and appreciate your patience as we work through this important process.

In Week 4, our staff will be engaging in a professional learning day with renowned educator Doug Fisher. The focus will be on Rigour and High Expectations—key elements that connect to our Site Learning Plan priorities of fostering effective learners and nurturing curiosity.

Across both SOTA and Marden, our current learning goal in Primary is:

Teachers will work on building the skills to design and ask effective essential questions.

This focus supports conceptual planning and aligns with the South Australian Curriculum roll-out.

In Week 1, I had the privilege of visiting Cowarie Station, where James shared the breathtaking views of the Diamantina River in flood. It was truly a magical and unforgettable experience—a powerful reminder of the beauty and uniqueness of the landscapes our students call home.

Getting out to visit families has been one of the great highlights of my time at SOTA so far this year. These visits have offered invaluable insights into your lived experiences and deepened my understanding of our school community. As a result of this I have been actively working on creating grab and go resource boxes for our Itinerant teachers, getting my hands on rockets, and cannons!! While I can't visit every family like our itinerant teachers can, please know that I'm always happy to connect—whether it's over the phone, via email, or in person if you're passing through Port Augusta. If you're in town and need a coffee break, I'd love to shout you a cuppa and have a chat.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I look forward to another great term ahead!





## EVENTS

Student Free Day: **20 May**

Sorry Day: **26 May**

Reconciliation week: **26 - 30 May**

Kings Birthday: **9 May**

Camp @ Woodhouse: **30 June - 4 July**

Mini School @Coober Pedy: **22- 26 September**

Get Together: **5 - 6 December**

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## OPFA and SOTA CGC

### Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

An opportunity for the parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with the Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) to discuss any aspects associated with the school.

### SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

The SOTA CGC discuss governance issues that require further discussion from OPFA meetings.

### OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates

All meetings at 3:00pm

OPFA: Week 3 (T2) Wednesday

Week 7 (T2) Wednesday

CGC: Week 4 (T1) Wednesday



## DES

This year, we have 11 amazing Govies supporting our SOTA Students! We would love to share some of our favourite Term 1 memories with you!

Name: **Tiarn**  
Station: Siam  
When I started: 2023



Fav Term 1 Memory: Memphis pushing past her fears to dress up and play pretend with her friends at induction week.

Name: **Millie**  
Station: MT Sarah  
When I started: 2025



Fav Term 1 Memory: Meeting everyone during induction week at Port Augusta.

Name: **Lucy**  
Station: Wirrealpa  
When I started: 2024



Fav Term 1 Memory: Aria, Timmy, and I all getting a SOTA star the same week!

Name: **Jacinta**  
Station: Thurlga  
When I started: 2024



Fav Term 1 Memory: Induction week, meeting all the new Govies and hanging with the children.

Name: **Lana**  
Station: Todmorden  
When I started: 2025



Fav Term 1 Memory: Seeing Lisma learning with her class peers in real life during activity week, and their girly spa evening after school.

Name: **Mistique**  
Station: Alton Downs  
When I started: 2025



Fav Term 1 Memory: My favourite memory was by far being able to watch the girls and Albie strive in the classroom. I also love how much we have bonded outside the school room, but nothing was more fun than watching the girls interact with the kids at SOTA Face to Face and meeting the other govies.

Name: **Abbey**  
Station: The Peake  
When I started: 2025



Fav Term 1 Memory: My favourite memory from term 1 was mustering with the kids over the holidays. It was such a fun experience to see them getting involved. They loved showing me how well they could ride their motorbikes and work the cattle in the yards. Sitting around the fire after muster, having chats about the crazy cattle was the best part!

Name: **Charli**  
Station: Wooltana  
When I started: 2025



Fav Term 1 Memory: I have had lots of amazing memories with Roy and Ada that we continue to make everyday but one of my favourite memories from this year so far would be when we got lots of rain at the end of one week and after a school day we finished a little earlier and went outside to go walk around and splash in lots of big muddy puddles. We all had so much fun and it was great to go explore and have some messy fun.

Name: **Hannah**  
Station: Hamilton  
When I started: 2025



Fav Term1 Memory: was seeing Jovie enjoying playing with his peers during activity week and seeing how much he enjoyed learning about oceans and ocean life in his linked learning lessons. He particularly enjoyed crafting his diorama.

Name: **Jules**  
Station: Dulkaninna  
When I started: 2025



Fav Term1 Memory: was mustering with the kids in the holidays. Camping out and lots of laughs. As well as spending time with Lara and Dan outside the classroom and getting to see Cody.

Name: **Indi**  
Station: Wintinna  
When I started: 2023



Fav Term 1 Memory: My favourite Term 1 memory was watching Honey-May and Beau during the Week 2 induction week with all their friends after the 6-week break.

**We would  
also like to acknowledge the work of  
Kellise and welcome Katie and Iz to our  
Governess group when they join us  
later in Term 2.**



## LIBRARY NEWS



# NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME COMPETITION 2025





**CREATE**

Create a model, poster, drawing, diorama, painting, recording, collage, ANYTHING THAT INVOLVES CREATING, based on the book, "The Truck Cat". You could record a verbal book review, podcast or promotion for the book (PowerPoint works well for recording).

**DRESS UP**

Dress up based on the book THE TRUCK CAT. Think outside the box and get CREATIVE!

Choose one or more of these competitions for your chance to WIN a copy of the book!

**4 COPIES TO GIVE AWAY**  
Entries are due on **FRIDAY WEEK 6**  
**Friday 6th June 2025**

**RESEARCH**

Research one of the following:

- A type of cat
- Occupation: truck driver, baker or author
- A tri-axel truck
- Illustrator Danny Snell
- The Art of Watercolour Painting

Present your research on a poster or record your voice for an aural presentation.

**DESIGN**

Design a new front cover for the book, "The Truck Cat" Written by Deborah Frenkel & illustrated by Danny Snell.

To enter, upload a picture of your research, your aural recording, design, creation or dress-up on Google Classroom or Teams (SOTA)





Hello, my name is Jess Tiver and I am replacing Jodie as the Teacher Librarian during Term 2 whilst she is on leave.

Library sessions during Wednesday and Thursday assemblies at SOTA have kicked off to a great start.

I'm really enjoying getting to know the students and sharing my love for books with them.

There are lots of competitions running this term and you can find these in the newsletter or on Teams.

I look forward to an enjoyable term with your children,  
Happy Reading,  
Jess

## SOTA LENDING LIBRARY

The MEC Library are looking to introduce a 'rolling' Lending Library available to families when they're visiting The SOTA school in person.

We'd love to hear some feedback from SOTA families about what kinds of books you'd like to find there.

To have your say, go to our post on the SOTA Community Teams page.

## DUCKS AWAY! IN MAY

Winter is coming... And the Library has gone quacker!

Enter to win 1 of 2 Winter Reading Packs...



**HOW TO ENTER**

- Borrow some books from the MEC Library today or online and add them to your basket.
- When we get your request, we'll pop a little duck in your next mailing.
- Each duck has a number - send us a picture of your duck and we'll enter you into our draw. Contact us at library@sota.edu.au or 08 8528 1888.
- If your name is drawn, you'll win a Winter Reading Pack - just in time for duck weather! Competition is open to all SAC & SOTA students.

Winners Drawn 1st June - 1 Entry per person





## Term 1 Week 11

Miss Stringer: Hudson : for being brave and confident to contribute willingly to online conversations and writing really great independent recounts using sound out strategies and correct sentence structure. Really proud of you Hudson!

Ms Andrews: Roy: for taking on challenged with a positive attitude and supporting his peers when he identifies a need.

Miss Kaur: for his consistent commitment to learning, uploading work in a timely manner and taking on constructive feedback to improve his work.

Miss Morley: Jayden: for embracing new learning and organisational strategies and seeking assistance at the end of lessons when feeling uncertain.

Mr Moyne: Bonnie : for consistent and quality work submissions for HPE tasks throughout the term and showing an ability to reflect upon learning and take on feedback.

Head: Mistique: for going above and beyond to help move the school be supportive

## Term 2 Week 2

Miss Stringer: Airlie: for joining in on class discussions, detailed, neat and outstanding work achievement across all learning areas and extending her learning to complete all extension tasks.

Ms Andrews: Lenny: for always being super ready to learn and participating in the activities during our online sessions.

Miss Kaur: Lilly: for having a great start to the term, participating in class discussions and asking topic-relevant questions.

Miss Morley: Lawson: for consistent organisation and commitment to his responsibilities as a learner and student council leader.

Mr Kelly: Elsie: for showing me her fantastic reading abilities on familiar reads and books she had read for the first time.

Mr Moyne: Alex: for consistent, timely and quality work submission in HPE activities and taking upon feedback to improve work.

Head: Maria: for working with myself and Steven to initiate the idea for grab and go boxes with a focus on Science, STEM, Arts.



## Mr Kelly Home Visits

It has been a very exciting time for me taking up the role of Itinerant teacher for this term. I have already been to some amazing places and met some amazing people. I am looking forward to bringing in new resource during my visit, which will include sport equipment and science and technology.







## Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

The end of term 1 and start of term 2 have kept me busy, travelling far and wide, including a trip to Canberra with the Year 5/6s! It has been fantastic seeing enthusiastic, motivated and reflective learners in the schoolrooms I have visited and it has been a pleasure to work alongside their dedicated supervisors. Keep up the great work everyone and look forward to seeing you all in a visit soon!









## Miss Stringer - Reception

**Welcome to Term 2.** We will continue to celebrate lost teeth, every family members and pets birthday and even finally get to celebrate some of our own class birthdays. Our sharing this term will involve celebrating our mums for Mother's Day, ideal jobs, being grateful and of course the free choice category which always brings a bit of mystery and fun - you never know what you are going to get in a standard Reception day!!



**Literacy:** How can we use a narrative to convey a message to an audience?

This term we are exploring and writing all things narrative. We will learn how to structure a narrative and the features of the beginning, middle and end. Students are learning that a narrative can be in many forms, written into a text, oral, pictorial, video - and more! Narratives are meant to be fun, fictional texts where we get to go a little crazy and use our imagination, but they can sometimes tell an important story too. Students will share their favourite narratives with peers. We will explore concepts such as rhyme and alliteration in our Friday book study lessons. Our phonics sessions will move from single sounds to digraph learning.



**Maths:** What is the quickest way to count a collection?

Our maths focus is addition and exploring all the different ways that we can add collections. We will learn through number lines, counting using items, counting on from the largest number, using fingers and moving to counting in our head. We will then move onto subtraction transferring the same skills. Most importantly, we will be looking at how we can connect this learning into our lives, why is this important and where will we use these skills? Students will explore skip counting starting with 10's and will learn to sequence the days of the week and the months of the year.

$$5 + 5 = 10$$



## Linked Learning Project

Seasons : How do our 4 seasons alter our every day life?

Students will explore the hemispheres and understand that there are 2. We live in the southern hemisphere and have 4 seasons. Each season has different weather, animal and plant growth, different months, requires different clothes and we complete different tasks and activities.

Weather: How can we identify the weather?

Students will learn about weather in their local environment and within Australia using their senses to identify weather around them. What can we then do with this information and how can it alter our day to day decisions.



## HPE

Students will learn all about healthy interactions and what is best for a healthy body. We will explore the movement of dance along with frisbee and continuing our Premier's Be Active Challenge.



Asher



Hudson



Elsie



Aria



Memphis



Airlie



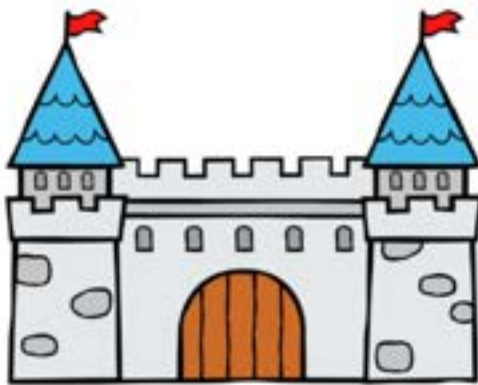
James



## Ms Andrews - Year 1/2

Welcome back to SOTA for Term 2! I trust you had a rejuvenating Easter break and are now prepared to embark on another enriching learning journey. This term, our lesson structure will incorporate a morning routine and follow-up sessions. We will maintain our online lessons, offering five literacy sessions, four mathematics sessions, and one linked learning session each week.

### Literacy

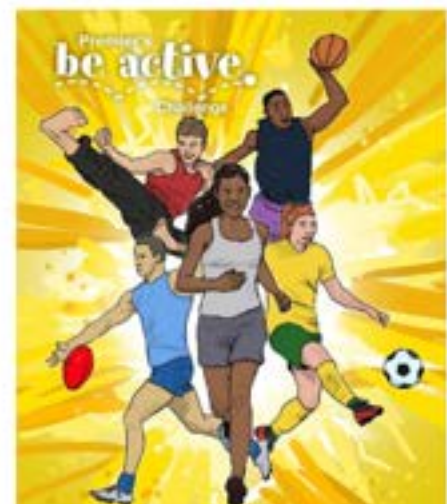


This term, our literacy program will focus on enhancing students' skills in various key areas. We will delve into narrative writing, with a particular emphasis on fairy tales, allowing students to explore creative storytelling and develop their writing techniques. Phonemic awareness practice will be integrated to strengthen students' understanding of sounds and their relationships to letters, which is fundamental for reading and spelling proficiency.

Additionally, we will concentrate on reading comprehension, encouraging students to engage with texts critically and thoughtfully. Spelling will also be a core component, with activities designed to improve accuracy and expand vocabulary. This comprehensive approach aims to foster a well-rounded literacy foundation for all students.

## Health and Physical Education (Mr Kelly)

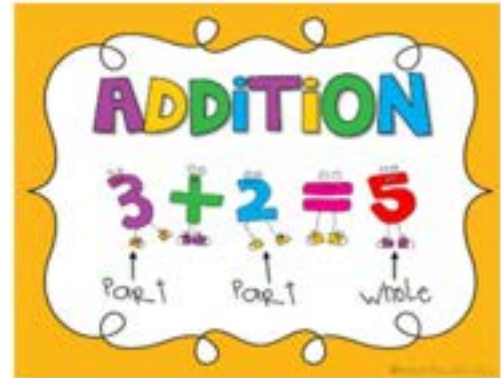
Students will discover the essentials of healthy interactions and what contributes to a healthy body. We'll engage in dance movements, explore frisbee activities, and continue participating in the Premier's Be Active Challenge.



## Mathematics

Our maths program will focus on key skills, enabling students to build confidence and understanding in their learning. Students will work on addition, learning various strategies to improve their basic maths abilities and explore numeration to help them understand numbers and their values. Learning to read an analogue clock will be part of our time lessons, teaching students how to tell time.

We'll also focus on the concept of space, helping students understand shapes and their properties. Daily "Think Mentals" practice will continue to boost students mental maths skills and encourage quick thinking.



## Linked Learning

In Term 2, our theme "Transportation Through Time" will guide our learning across various subjects. In Science, we'll explore the history of transportation, examining how technology has evolved from horses and carts to modern cars and trains, and how these changes have transformed the way we move. In Design Technology, students will have the opportunity to design and build their own vehicles, applying creativity and engineering skills.



The Arts will focus on Music, where students will compose a song reflecting on how transportation has changed over time. In HASS, our History lessons will delve into different transportation methods used throughout history and their impact on society, trade, and travel. This integrated approach aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of transportation's role in shaping our world.





## Miss Kaur - Year 3/4

### Term 2 Overview

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a relaxing and refreshing break. This term is packed with exciting and enriching learning experiences. Let's take a look at what we'll be exploring together.

This term, you will have four online lessons for English, three lessons each for Maths and Linked Learning, and one lesson for Japanese.

#### Maths

In Maths, we will begin the term with a unit on fractions. Students will develop a deep understanding of fractions using hands-on materials, diagrams, and real-world examples. They will learn to recognise and name common fractions, compare and order them, and represent fractions of shapes and collections.



In the second half of the term, our focus will shift to probability. Students will explore the language of chance, conduct simple experiments, collect data, and make predictions based on their findings.

Throughout the term, students will also continue working on IXL Maths tasks to consolidate their understanding and practise targeted skills at their own level.



#### English

Our English focus this term is on persuasive language and techniques through the world of advertising. Students will explore a range of advertisements—print, digital, and video—and identify key persuasive features such as slogans, emotive language, exaggeration, and target audience. They will then apply what they've learned by creating their own persuasive ad campaign for a product of their choice.

We will also continue with our weekly spelling, comprehension, DORF, grammar and IXL tasks.



### **Linked Learning: All About Eggs**

This integrated unit explores the fascinating world of eggs. Students will investigate the nutritional value of eggs, the different ways eggs are produced and farmed, the environmental impact of the egg industry, and the role eggs play in sustainable agriculture.



Through hands-on activities, interactive research, and meaningful real-life connections, students will build a well-rounded understanding of this everyday food. This unit connects across Science, HASS, Technology, and Health, encouraging students to think critically about where their food comes from and how their choices affect the world around them.

### **Health and Physical Education (with Mr. Moyne)**

In Health and Physical Education, students will learn about making healthy choices and how these strategies can be utilised to promote health and wellbeing. Students will examine the five food groups and how to identify healthy and unhealthy foods. Within practical lessons, students will work towards creating a basketball dance performance by developing and practicing a series of basketball movement skills utilising the elements of movement.





## Miss Morley - Year 5/6

### Term 2 Overview

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all enjoyed your two-week holiday and our class trip to Canberra! This term we will be continuing with our Maths, English, and Linked Learning subjects. As we will not have CPC this term, students will have an extra English lesson per week.

The 5/6 class will be trialling a new format of Library lessons, which will be on Monday afternoons for 30 minutes. These sessions will focus on building digital literacy and research skills. For this term's trial, the library will be considered mandatory.

### Maths

This term in Maths, our focus will be on parts of wholes and how to represent and apply them in problem-solving. We will explore decimals, fractions, and percentages by representing them visually and numerically, before learning strategies for using them in number operation problems and real-life scenarios.

We will be returning to follow-up learning after our online classes rather than using a flipped learning model. Daily IXL practice will continue to consolidate skills from class and extend our learning as recommended in our diagnostics.



**English**

This term in English, we will develop our oral language and reading comprehension skills as we explore our focus text, 'Under the Stars' by Drew Proffitt, the fictional journey of an Irish orphan's migration to the Australian Colonies in the 1800s.

Students will also explore a range of text types, including digital, persuasive, fictional, non-fictional, film, and visual texts. They will develop their understanding of the texts' purposes, structures, and language features, while researching, reading, and discussing real-life stories of Australian Migrants and the historical context the texts are set in.

In addition, the class will be continuing with our literacy block, with assigned daily spelling and DORF tasks to develop and consolidate literacy skills from earlier learning.



### Linked Learning

In our Linked Learning subject, we will investigate the HASS concept of migration – past and future and the idea of belonging to place. In the first half of the term, we will learn about Australia's history of migration, who and where people migrated from and how they have affected Australia's society.



There will be some crossover between our English and Linked Learning through the themes in our English text, and as we conduct research into famous Australian migrants.



In the second half of the term, we will jump forward in time to explore the possibility of migrating to other planets in the future. Through a Science and Technology investigation, students will determine what makes Earth liveable and what would be required to live on another planet.

### Health and Physical Education (with Mr. Moyne)

In Health and Physical Education, Year 5 students will be making healthy decisions in order to promote health and wellbeing. Students will learn about a variety of healthy habits and how they can be incorporated into everyday life. Year 6 students will be exploring personal and cultural identity as well as looking at how important people can influence decisions in their lives. Within practical lessons, students will be working towards creating a dance performance by developing and practicing a series of hip hop movement sequences.





# Canberra Review

At the start of the term, our Year 5/6 students had the opportunity to travel to Canberra to learn more about our national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy. Students enjoyed a variety of experiences with the most popular visits being the High Court of Australia, Government House, Questacon, Australian Institute of Sport and of course the Pod Playground!

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding of \$225 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.





# Canberra Review

Overall, the camp was very successful. Macquarie Tours was very well organised, and their schedule meant the group was constantly engaged at various attractions without the large gaps noticed in 2023. A few higher interest activities were a bit too short for full exploration; we could have spent longer at places such as the Australian War Memorial, Questacon, AIS, etc. Less interest in a few places, such as the National Gallery and the Museum, but overall, high engagement in our program.

The Macquarie bus driver and tour operator was very knowledgeable about Canberra and thoroughly entertained the students with his knowledge of the various places we passed, as well as providing the adults with information about timing for getting around, photo opportunities, and how to adjust plans based on weather and traffic conditions.

The accommodation and food provided at Sundown Villas were great, and we had a recreation room each evening for movies/table tennis, and our own activities. However, there was limited access to outdoor facilities such as the sports courts due to weather and timing restrictions, which disappointed students. Feedback from students was that they felt there was nothing to do in the mornings while waiting for breakfast to start.

Feedback has been collected from all students on the various attractions, accommodation, and travel – what went well, what was a problem, and what they would do differently if they were planning the next Canberra trip. This has been saved for staff to consider next year.





# News

**Inclusive Teaching & Learning**  
**SIES**

**CARE PLANS AND NDIS PROVIDERS IN SCHOOLS INFORMATION SESSION**

The Department's Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES) will be hosting an information session about care plans and NDIS providers in schools presented by Nicola Birch, Manager, Disability, Policy & Legislation via Microsoft Teams (scan the code below).

If you're a parent or carer of a student with disability at a Department School, you are invited to the session where SIES staff will also be available to discuss resources and supports.

**THURSDAY 22nd MAY 2025**  
1pm - 2:30pm  
Join the meeting here

8225 2671 | [sies.admin@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:sies.admin@schools.sa.edu.au) | [www.SIES.sa.edu.au](http://www.SIES.sa.edu.au)

**NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME**  
**THE TRUCK CAT**  
Deborah Franklin | Danny Snell

**SAVE THE DATE**  
21 May 2025 • 12pm (AEST)  
[www.sia.org.au/nst](http://www.sia.org.au/nst) #librarystorytime

**NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME COMPETITION 2025**

Choose one or more of these competitions for your chance to win a copy of the book!

**4 COPIES TO GIVE AWAY**  
Entries are due on **FRIDAY WEEK 6** Friday 6th June 2025

**CREATE**  
Create a model, poster, drawing, diagram, painting, recording, collage, ANYTHING THAT INVOLVES CREATING, based on the book, "The Truck Cat". This could be a verbal book review, podcast or presentation for the book. Please email your work to: [competition@sia.org.au](mailto:competition@sia.org.au)

**RESEARCH**  
Research one of the following:  
1. A type of cat  
2. A famous truck driver, driver or author  
3. A cat book  
4. A cat story  
5. The art of illustration  
6. The art of research and giving a report  
Present your research in a poster or presentation.

**DESIGN**  
Design a new front cover for the book, "The Truck Cat" written by Deborah Franklin & illustrated by Danny Snell.

**DRESS UP**  
Dress up based on the book "The TRUCK CAT" and get C R E A T I V E!

**LEAD THE WAY. SLEEP OUT.**  
*Transform Lives.*

For one night, I'm swapping my bed for the cold, hard ground, but for thousands of people in Australia, homelessness isn't just one night. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on their lives. Your support can change lives.

*Donate to my fundraising page today!*

[www.leadtheway.org.au/fundraising/](http://www.leadtheway.org.au/fundraising/)

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**PREMIER'S READING Challenge**

For more information:  
8225 4300  
[premier@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:premier@schools.sa.edu.au)  
[prr.sa.edu.au](http://prr.sa.edu.au)

Reading for the Challenge finishes on **5 September 2025**



Don't forget to register for Woodhouse