



Media Release  
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## Kia ora to Māori Language Week!

Selwyn District Libraries will celebrate Māori Language Week through a series of initiatives to encourage the use of te Reo in more Selwyn homes.

This year's national Māori Language Week theme is 'kia ora te reo Māori' and begins on 11 September.

It will be supported by Darfield and Rolleston Libraries with special Wā Pūrākau Storytime sessions for Selwyn children.

The sessions will be run by Kitty Brown and Kirsten Parkinson from Reo Pēpi. The cousins from Dunedin were inspired to create user-friendly bilingual children's books after becoming mothers and finding there was a lack of junior te Reo books available. Reo Pēpi books are intended to encourage the use of te Reo in New Zealand households with simple and engaging content in English and te Reo.

Selwyn District Libraries Manager, Vicki Carylson says it's important to promote the use of Māori language day-to-day in Selwyn, particularly for schoolchildren.

"Our whakatauki, or theme for Māori Language Week is Tōku reo, tōku ohoho, which means 'my language, my awakening'. The Wā Pūrākau sessions will encourage children to interact with te Reo through storytelling, as well as singing songs and craft fun."

All four Selwyn District Libraries will have displays celebrating Māori Language Week. Other initiatives include waiata and pukapuka being incorporated into Storytimes and Rhymetimes regular sessions, as well as a scavenger hunt for children.

The Wā Pūrākau event is free and no bookings are required but there are limited places. Sessions are aimed at 2–7 year olds but all are welcome.

Wā Pūrākau Storytime will take place on Saturday 9 September, with the Darfield Library session at 9.30am and the Rolleston Library session at 11.30am.

Signed Reo Pēpi books will be available for purchase on the day.

For more details go to [www.selwynlibraries.co.nz](http://www.selwynlibraries.co.nz).

**ENDS**

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