



Media Release

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## Summer fun coming to local libraries

Selwyn District Libraries are hosting a variety of fun-filled activities to keep kids entertained over the summer holiday.

Book lovers of all ages are invited to join Selwyn District Libraries in a 'Summer of Reading' which includes the Selwyn Summer Reading Programme for children and 'Stop, Drop and Read'. For a month over the new year break Selwyn residents can join library staff at 2.30pm every weekday to 'Stop' what they are doing, 'Drop' into a comfortable seat and 'Read' for 15 minutes.

The Selwyn Summer Reading programme returns in December for school kids, with a chance to win some great prizes. To join the programme kids need to visit a Selwyn District Library and pick up an official reading log, then record how many minutes they spend reading each day. They can read anything, anywhere, anytime. Prizes include Android tablets, book vouchers and family passes to the Selwyn Aquatic Centre. Terms and conditions are available online at [www.selwynlibraries.co.nz](http://www.selwynlibraries.co.nz).

"Selwyn District Libraries want to support the work of local schools by encouraging kids to continue reading over the summer holidays in an attempt to reduce the risk of 'summer slide.' According to research from a number of countries, during the summer holiday months, the reading level of children who don't have access to reading material or who don't read, declines," says Vicki Carlyon, Selwyn District Libraries Manager.

"New Zealand research shows children from lower income areas are most at risk of the summer slide," she adds.

Selwyn District Libraries are also encouraging kids to get involved in wildlife conservation through their school holiday activity programme. Four sessions of the LEGO® programme are being held on 10 and 13 January. At these sessions school children can come along to their local library and build a habitat out of LEGO® for an endangered bird or animal. The sessions are for children aged over the age of five with caregiver supervision required for children under the age of eight. Bookings are essential, to book visit [www.selwynlibraries.co.nz](http://www.selwynlibraries.co.nz).

#TheFlockNZ is coming to Selwyn District Libraries next year with four sessions for school kids from 16-26 January where children can get involved to create their own bird to join the flock. #TheFlockNZ is an awareness campaign for endangered shore and river birds. Flocks of hand decorated birds will be appearing all over the district this summer. At the art and craft sessions children will make and decorate birds for display around the South Island, and maybe even the whole country! Bookings are essential, to book visit [www.selwynlibraries.co.nz](http://www.selwynlibraries.co.nz).

On 23 and 24 January fun, interactive workshops are on offer for kids over eight at all four library branches. Award winning author Maria Gill will involve local children in acting out a story with native bird and predator puppets, writing a story about an endangered animal, learning how to draw a native bird and looking at ways they can help the environment and its wildlife. Bookings are essential, to book visit [www.selwynlibraries.co.nz](http://www.selwynlibraries.co.nz).

Maria Gill is a popular New Zealand author of non-fiction. Her book *Anzac Heroes* won the 2016 New Zealand Book Awards for Children & Young Adults Non-fiction Award and the 2016 Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award. Bookings are essential, to book visit [www.selwynlibraries.co.nz](http://www.selwynlibraries.co.nz).

Selwyn District Libraries also have new 'children's boxes' which contain a range of dress ups and toys to encourage kids to stay a while and engage in creative play.

Ends

Photos attached:

Harriet Collins (9 years), Skye Collins (9 years), Jack Collins (6 years) and Summer Barker (9 years) try out the new 'children's box' dress ups at Darfield

Darfield siblings Jack (6 years), Harriet (9 years) and Skye Collins (9 years) enjoying some books this summer.

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