

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

Monday 14 February 2022

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES TO READ AT THIS YEAR'S MAGIC OF STORYTIME**

From the Fire and Rescue Services to paramedics and the SES, our 'Emergency Services' play a vital role in ensuring our communities safety and care.

With the help of some very special guests from the emergency services, this year's Magic of Storytime will host a range of readers who will share a book based on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library themes of courage, heroism, support and bravery.

Emergencies are part of life and can be scary and confusing experiences for all of us – including little ones, said United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr,

"Our readers, who will represent each of the Emergency Services will be on hand to answer any questions the children have and provide the opportunity to explore some of the equipment used during emergencies."

"It is important to talk about emergencies with children to help them make sense of what's happening and cope before, during and after an emergency," Ms Carr said.

Now in its fourth year, the Magic of Storytime builds on the work of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, encouraging the whole community to get behind early literacy, improving language and literacy skills.

"It is important to get children excited about reading, inspire their imaginations and let them have fun with stories. It also provides a chance to share early childhood safety messages relevant in times of emergency," Ms Carr concluded.

The first Magic of Storytime will kick off 11.00am Friday 4 March 2022 with Christopher Hulonce, Flotilla Contriller of Portland Coast Guard Portland reading the book *Where the wild things are* by Maurice Sendak.

Lookout in April, for when Victoria Police reads *The Great Garden Mystery* by Renee Treml.

Children attending will have the chance to take home a copy of the book being read and an activity pack to complete at home.

This is a FREE event.

CEO Magic of Storytime runs the first Friday of every month during school terms from 11.00am at Glenelg Libraries Bentinck Street, Portland. A partnership with United Way Glenelg, Portland Aluminium and Glenelg Libraries supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

For more information on the CEOs Magic of Storytime go to United Way Glenelg Facebook events page [www.facebook.com/unitedwayglenelg/events](http://www.facebook.com/unitedwayglenelg/events) or contact Nicole Carr on 0410 513305 or [mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au](mailto:mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au)

Photo: Christopher Hulonce from Portland Coast Guard is looking forward to reading to the children in March.

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