

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE

Wednesday 3 September 2025

GLOBAL STORIES COME TO LIFE THROUGH COSTUME LIBRARY REFRESH

Thanks to generous support from the Alcoa Foundation, United Way Glenelg is proud to announce the expansion of its existing Costume Lending Library to include a new collection of culturally diverse costumes.

As part of the costume library refresh, located at Glenelg Libraries, up to 10 underused costumes will be donated to Casterton Playgroup and replaced with new character costumes inspired by beloved children's stories from around the world. These costumes will reflect a broader range of cultural backgrounds, enabling children to engage in inclusive and imaginative play that celebrates global perspectives.

"We're thrilled to give our costume library a vibrant new direction," said Nicole Carr, Executive Officer of United Way Glenelg.

"These additions will encourage children to connect with diverse characters and experiences. It's a powerful way to support both literacy and cultural understanding in classrooms and across our community."

"The refreshed character costumes will be available to borrow in time for Book Week, making it the perfect opportunity to celebrate global stories and imaginative play."

Portland Aluminium has welcomed the opportunity to be involved in this initiative.

"At Alcoa, inclusion and diversity are core to how we work and who we are," said Werner van Schalkwyk, Plant Manager, Portland Aluminium.

"Supporting programs that reflect and celebrate cultural diversity is something we're proud to be part of."

Alcoa's Wagerup Alumina Refinery Manager Paul Kuczma commented "As a regional lead for AWARE (Alcoans Working Actively for Racial-Ethnic Equality), I'm proud to see Alcoa supporting initiatives that help children connect with diverse cultures through play."

"These costumes aren't just fun - they're a way to spark curiosity, build empathy, and celebrate the stories that shape who we are."

The costume library is available to families across the Glenelg Shire through Glenelg Libraries.

The project builds on the success of United Way Glenelg's Read Across Glenelg program, where Portland Aluminium employees visit local kindergartens and primary schools to read books from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This year's theme, Stories That Shaped Us, invites employees to share their favourite childhood stories, books that shaped their own lives, with the next generation of readers.

Photo: Portland Aluminium Employee Richard Clark and his grandson Rhodes Clark.

[End of Media Release]

Nicole Carr, United Way Glenelg Executive Officer
Phone: 0410 513 305 Email: mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au
