

## Dungog Early Literacy Newsletter 3

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Welcome to the latest newsletter from Dungog Early Literacy for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



### 110 babies are now enrolled across the Dungog Shire

The families live in Alison, Allynbrook, Bandon Grove, Bendolba, Bingleburra, Brookfield, Carabolla, Clarence Town, Dungog, Eccleston, Glen Martin, Gresford, East Gresford, Hilldale, Marshdale, Martin's Creek, Munni, Paterson, Salisbury, Sugarloaf, Vacy and Wirragulla.

We have formed a strong and ongoing relationship with Hunter New England Local Health District Child and Family Health Nurses who distribute enrolment forms to new mums.

### **Thank you to our sponsors**

36 individuals are supporting 54 children.

Welcome to our new business sponsors Achilles Training, Dungog Wholefoods Co-op, Earth & Elm Studio, Evergreen Bean and The Mutual Bank.

Thanks again to our long-term sponsors Clarence Town Lion's Club, Dungog Shire Council, Dungog/Clarence Town CWA, Dungog Rotary, Dun-Up, Friends of the Dungog Shire Community Centre, Maitland Toyota, Northern Inland Electrical Pty Ltd, Paterson Allyn Garden Club, Paterson CWA, Paterson Rotary, Pathways Integrative Health.



### **Celebrating 100 enrolments**

On 2 September 2025 we celebrated the enrolment of 100 children in the Dungog Shire!

Many thanks to our generous supporters at the Royal Hotel Dungog for a great venue, food and drinks, and Mark Whelan from Achilles Training and local high school student Charlie.

**[Read the Arts Upper Hunter article](#)**

### **It takes a village**

We were recently featured as a case study by United Way Australia.

## Read the article



### Second hand bookshop

The Friends of Dungog Shire Community Centre continue to run **Books & More**, a successful second hand bookshop at 232 Dowling Street Dungog.

Proceeds support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and Dungog Shire Community Centre.

Drop in for a browse on **the first two Tuesdays of the month 10:00am to 2:00pm or Thursday - Saturday 10.00am to 2:00pm.**

Thank you to all those who have donated items, including our far flung friends Luna Chicks in Sydney and Silk Hairdressing at Tea Gardens.

Special thanks to Westwood Providores for its ongoing generosity and support.

### Baby Book Club

A new "Baby Book Club" group now runs at Dungog Library. We are grateful to be able to use this great welcoming space. This new initiative is thanks to Kristen Kilpatrick, a Committee member of Dungog Early Literacy. It's a great opportunity for story reading and social interaction for babies and their

mums. In 2025 it has been run bi-monthly on a Thursday morning.

Free to all families in the community (donations welcomed).

Keep an eye on Dungog Early Literacy's Facebook page in the new year for dates and times.



"Early literacy is a cause true to my heart. Reading together fosters such beautiful connections and sparks such elaborate conversations!"

"As a mum of 5, with my two little ones having special needs, reading encourages their creativity, imagination and communication. Elliana's hearing loss and speech impediment could be seen as challenging, but I see it as an opportunity to learn more about how our expressions, tone of voice and sign language can further enhance our reading experience! Curating our "Baby Book Club" is a way for me to give back to the program, but it also gives me an outlet to practise Auslan in a safe, fun and social way with other families."

"I appreciate how inclusive and welcoming our community of Dungog is!" Kristen

### Children's author visit

Children's author Ruth Buggy kindly visited Dungog as a guest of Dungog



Early Literacy and held two story reading sessions for children, held at Dungog Library and Clarence Town School of Arts Hall.

"Balloons" and "Pirana Mouse" were read to children followed by a number of activities. The balloon activities were a great hit!

Thanks Ruth!



#### Our aim

To enrol as many babies as we can! This is only limited by the funds we can raise.  
To become a sponsor or donate please click on the button below.

[Donate](#)

All donations made in the Dungog Shire program stay in Dungog Shire.

Ask at Lovey's IGA Dungog to add your points to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in the My Rewards program.



[View email in browser](#)

You are receiving this Newsletter from Dungog Early Literacy about the progress of DPIL in the Dungog Shire because you have either become a member, donated money, are a sponsor of one or more children or shown an interest in this amazing program.

**Dungog Early Literacy Inc.**

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