



Media release

Sydney Writers' Festival Kicks on for Literacy

What do you get when you put bookworms in a room with footy fans?

An epic good debate.

Is the book better than the ball? We'll find out at this year's annual **KICK ON FOR LITERACY (KOFL)** event at the **Sydney Writer's Festival on May 24**.

Lovers of AFL **Shelley Ware** (from cult footy show *Marngrook*) and **David Lawrence** will argue in favour of the book, while authors **Anita Heiss** and **Graeme Simsion** will convince us to get behind the ball. The passionate debate will be moderated by Sydney Swans board member Sam Mostyn at Walsh Bay's Hemingway Bar. Audience participation is encouraged, and the night will be capped off with auctions, raffles, and a performance by *Play School's* Justine Clarke.

Hosted by the **Epic Good Foundation**, KOFL was created as a fundraising event for the **Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF)** to coincide with and celebrate National Reconciliation Week and the AFL's annual Sir Doug Nicholls Round.

KICK ON FOR LITERACY will be emceed by Stuart Giles and Cathie Reid, co-founders of the Epic Good Foundation supporters of the Hawthorn Indigenous Program. Cathie is also on the Board of the Lions Football Club.

On hosting this year's event, Cathie and Stuart said, 'We are conscious of the need to marry literacy and sport through growing relationships between communities and organisations like the ILF, the SWF and Hawthorn FC. We're also excited about the potential to raise much needed funds to put books into the hands of some of Australia's most disadvantaged.'

Up for auction on the night will be signed guernseys from Hawthorn FC and the Sydney Swans, as well as football boots in the Sydney Swans colours hand-painted by David Williams of Gilimbaa, signed artwork by Brenda L. Croft and Dub Leffler, framed drawings from the book *Kicking Goals with Goodesy and Magic*, fashion items, bundles of signed books by generous Aussie authors, a weekend getaway to Gerroa and other ways to enjoy your reading and footy time.

'Sydney Writers' Festival is delighted to be able to host this year's Kick On For Literacy event. Helping to put books into the hands of some of Australia's most disadvantaged

children is a very worthy cause that we're proud to support,' said Festival Artistic Director Michaela McGuire.

Executive Director of the ILF Karen Williams said, 'Kick On For Literacy is an important part of our calendar helping us to raise awareness as well as vital funds to give children living in the remotest parts of Australia free access to quality books and workshop programs.

'According to this year's CLOSING THE GAP report and the 2016 NAPLAN results, there is no significant change in the literacy levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in remote communities. For instance, three out of four Year 5 students are *below* the national minimum reading standards. Our Foundation is working hard to take small but sustainable steps to change these statistics. Please support us if you can.'

If you can't imagine your life without a good book or a good game of football, then you'd better grab a ticket to KICK ON FOR LITERACY now. Book [online here!](#) Or call **(02) 9256 4200** Tix are \$35. All income raised on the night goes directly to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

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