

Title: “Frustrations at school led to obstacles in learning” - International Literacy Day

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FOR RELEASE: Immediate

In recognition of International Literacy Day on 8 September, Mayor Janie Annear visited The Learning Centre, the headquarters of Literacy South Canterbury (LSC), and spoke with individual learners and their tutors.

These learners referred to the frustrations they had experienced in school and how these frustrations had become obstacles to their education, and life. They shared with Mrs Annear the strategies which they and their tutors had devised to help overcome these literacy obstacles and the personal growth in confidence that had followed.

Mrs. Annear also enjoyed talking with some Training Opportunity (TOPS) learners, who had been researching local and regional government. When asked, “Could you please tell us about your job? What does a mayor do?”, Janie explained the duties and responsibilities of her role. She also talked about the history and significance of the mayoral golden chain, as a symbol of her office, and told a funny story about safeguarding this chain on a trip to China.

Mrs Annear then asked about the learners’ recent visit to the Dyslexia Discovery Exhibit in Christchurch. This visit had been, they assured her, an excellent opportunity for them to glimpse the world in the same way as someone who suffers from dyslexia.

It was a very successful marking of World Literacy Day.

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Additional information:

The Learning Centre at Bluestone House is the headquarters of Literacy South Canterbury (LSC), and the Timaru area's specialist provider of literacy and numeracy help for adults. This beautiful 19th Century structure is the former headmaster's house of Timaru College, and comprises LSC's administration and one-on-one tutorial areas. LSC's new purpose-built classrooms, have recently been built, comprising classrooms, kitchen, and an office.



Adult learner, Christine Matheson, displays some of her new skill with words for Mayor Janie Annear, LSC Chairman of the Board Frederick Logan, and tutor Daphne Whitford-Smith (right)



Tutors and literacy students with Mayor Janie Annear outside the new LSC classrooms next to Bluestone House.