



World Change Starts with Educated Children.®

**Books for Breakfast
Friday 6th February 2009
9-10.30am**

**Room to Read's *Students Helping Students* programme
launches at The State Library of NSW**

Room to Read is a global charity founded on the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children. Its mission is to promote literacy in developing countries by partnering with local communities to build schools and libraries, filling them with locally printed bilingual books and donated English books, and to support girls' scholarships. In February 2009 Room to Read will launch in Australia with a Sydney chapter.

On the morning of Friday 6 February, John Wood, founder and CEO of Room to Read, invites student and staff representatives from schools in Sydney and beyond to join him for breakfast at The State Library of NSW, to hear the Room to Read story and to consider joining the *Students Helping Students* programme.

The *Students Helping Students* programme has been an important focus for Room to Read since the tsunami in early 2005 when students from all over the world demonstrated inspiring creativity, compassion and energy in their efforts to raise funds to assist rebuilding initiatives. The programme's objective today is to engage students in the battle to address a much broader tragedy, the disaster of illiteracy.

Come and enjoy a buffet breakfast, see a presentation about Room to Read's work in six countries in Asia and two in Africa – and think about ways in which you might be able to engage your own school communities. There will also be an opportunity to meet a number of writers for young people who have already offered their support to Room to Read, including Melina Marchetta, Susanne Gervay, John Larkin and Chris Cheng.

Room to Read's ambassador, writer Markus Zusak, will not be present but will send a message to students about why he is committed to helping Room to Read achieve its goal of impacting 10 million children by 2020. And students from the Blue Mountains, the first to fundraise for Room to Read in Australia, will share their experiences and present a cheque to John Wood.

For further information about **Books for Breakfast** or about our **Students Helping Students** programme please contact:

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