**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL CHILDREN’S AUTHOR SWINGS BACK INTO VIEW, BRINGING HER DEAF MONKEY ALONG FOR THE TRIP.**

**Wyndham Vale, Melbourne (September 26, 2020)** *– Early reviews are in and children love having Mikah Monkey back. Young Mikah fans with hearing loss/deafness are reporting that it is awesome to have a character who is deaf and uses sign language (AUSLAN) like they do.* ***Mikah’s Wandering Feet*** *is the second in the* ***Mikah Can!*** *series and follows* ***Mikah’s Big Move (2018)****.*

Written by local author Tabitha Page, **Mikah’s Wandering Feet** is the second in the Mikah Can! series of illustrated books for children. The book is suitable for a wide age range (3-7yrs approx.) but can be read and enjoyed by the young and the old. The book touches on subjects such as safety, disability, deafness, anxiety, being lost, communication and more.

In the book, Mikah monkey decides to leave the safety of his enclosure in pursuit of something that he really wants. Once out of the enclosure and away from his parents and sister, he quickly becomes lost and struggles to find his way back.

Mikah is deaf and uses sign language (AUSLAN) to talk to his family, but of course not everyone in the zoo uses sign language and so, when he finds himself lost and alone, Mikah has trouble telling others what he needs and becomes very anxious.

What does Mikah do?

The only way to find out, is to read this bright action-packed book for yourself.

Tabitha Page dreamed up Mikah Monkey and his book series after needing a procedure on her jaw, caused by chronic illness/disability. Tabitha lost the hearing in one of her ears and over time, her chronic illness has been slowly taking some hearing in her other ear. This hearing loss, and the feelings of anxiety and change that came with it, is what prompted Tabitha to create Mikah Monkey and his series of books for children.

*‘I wanted to create a character that children can relate to. If a child relates to Mikah because he is deaf and uses sign to talk, great! If it is because he gets anxious sometimes, great! If it is just that the child loves monkeys, then that is awesome as well. I want Mikah’s stories to appeal to and empower many different children and for different reasons.*

*I always knew that I wanted Mikah’s deafness to be part of his journey, but not the entire thing. I wanted it to be a part of his every day, as it is with people but I want it to not be the entire focus, as of course there are many things that make up a day and many things that make up a person.*

*I really hope that while reading of Mikah’s adventures, children will feel a little less alone, a lot more empowered and will realise that they are just as fabulous as everybody else, no matter their situation.’*

The new book: **Mikah’s Wandering Feet**, is bright, easy to read and has amazing illustrations, expertly drawn by Ukrainian Illustrator Alexander Kulieshov, who also illustrated Tabitha’s first book titled **Mikah’s Big Move (2018)** and her Second book titled **Forever Friends (2019).**

**Mikah’s Wandering Feet** was released on **September 10th, 2020** via an online book launch and was well attended and great fun.

Readers can get their copy of the new book and a few other special books on the author's website.

Specials on all books do run from time to time, so keep an eye on the website (below).

**About the Author:**

Tabitha J Page is a New Zealand born children’s author, who moved to Australia in 2010. She has worked in childcare and retail and loves to share the experiences and knowledge she has gained in her 30-odd years (a lady never tells!)

For further information about Tabitha and her books visit **http://www.tabithajeanpage.com**

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