**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

3 May 2019

**LOCAL AUTHOR TEACHES CHILDREN THAT DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE CELEBRATED.**

**Wyndham Vale, Melbourne (May 3, 2019)** *– Children who are struggling to fit in because they are seen as ‘different’ to the majority, and their parents will find this charming picture book for older readers, a helpful, fun resource.* ***Forever Friends*** *is launching on June 1st, 2019 in Wyndham Vale.*

Written by local author Tabitha Page, **Forever Friends** is the first in the Fabulous Friends series of picture books for older readers and touches on subjects such as acceptance, bullying, inclusion, fitting in, disability, anxiety and more.

In the book, the girls both have challenges at school. Tia has a new pair of glasses and Claire uses a wheelchair. Their fears of teasing at school come true, but from shared adversity comes a true friendship as they find they have much in common beyond their obvious differences.

The story follows the girls’ journey as they learn about themselves, each other, friendship and the world.

Tabitha Page came up with this story by tapping in to her own memories and experiences, both with being different to the majority, due to having chronic illness/disability, and also using her memories of being bullied in school.

*‘I didn’t fit the accepted criteria in school. I was the fat kid, the nerdy, introverted kid who always had her head in a book and refused to pick on others when the majority were. Nowadays, with my chronic illness, I am still not part of the majority, but I have learned to embrace my differences and am using my experiences to empower others and bring about acceptance of these very important issues.’*

This new book, **Forever Friends**, is bright, easy to read and has fabulous illustrations, expertly drawn by Ukrainian Illustrator Alexander Kulieshov, who also illustrated Tabitha’s first book, released in 2018, titled **Mikah’s Big Move.**

**Forever Friends** is scheduled to be released on **June 1st, 2019** in Wyndham Vale. The release will be celebrated at a relaxed book launch event in **Cody’s Café, Manor Lakes 3024 between 1pm and 3pm**. All are welcome to attend.

Readers can get their copy during the launch event or on the author's website. The book will be available to pre-order on the author's website from May 1, 2019. For further information visit: [**http://www.tabithajeanpage.com**](http://www.tabithajeanpage.com/)

**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**

**Forever Friends Book launch details:**

1-3pm on June 1, 2019

At Cody’s Café, Manor Lakes Shopping centre 3024, Wyndham Vale

All Welcome

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

tpagewriter@gmail.com or the media page on the above website.