

National Year of Reading 2012



CONTENTS

Issue 19, 31 July 2012

[The countdown to The Reading Hour](#)

[A day for winners](#)

[Lots of things to do](#)

[Lots of resources on our wiki](#)

[Reading for people in need](#)

[Library ad on TV](#)

[Adult Learners' Week short-story competition](#)

[Sharing stories of literacy students](#)

[Governor-General supports reading](#)

[Good Reading free online](#)

[10 Aussie books to read before you die](#)

[All Australian Get Reading!](#)

[Garth Nix on tour](#)

[National Gallery of Australia](#)

[Books in Homes](#)

[Biggest Book Fair](#)

[The Cat in the Hat](#)

[Peace Story Circles](#)

[Amaze-ing idea](#)

The countdown to The Reading Hour

The Reading Hour is coming up fast. It takes place on Saturday 25 August, nominally from 6pm until 7pm, but with events and activities happening all day, all around Australia. There's not enough space to tell you everything that's happening, but here are a few of the highlights:



A day for winners

On 25 August, we'll be announcing the winners of the Marvel/Scholastic reading super heroes competition; the winners of the Adult Learners' Week 2012 'It's never too late... to learn to read' competition and our special guests for the Melbourne Writers Festival Reading Hour party will be the winners of ABC local radio competitions to find a young reading champion from every state and territory. [Find out more on our website.](#)

Lots of things to do

[Visit our website](#) and check out the events on our calendar to find something close to you. Come along to the Urban Screen at The Concourse, Chatswood, Sydney, for some big screen fun, Marvel reading super heroes and prize giveaways (4pm to 5pm), also beamed live to the Cultural Centre Screen in the Perth Cultural Centre. Visit the [Sydney Jewish Writers' Festival](#) and take part in the opening night event with Premier Barry O'Farrell and a host of well known authors. [Book your free place](#) at the fabulous Reading Hour party, in Melbourne's BMW Edge theatre, part of the Melbourne Writers Festival (5pm to 6pm). It's not too late to plan your own event and [download the countdown widget](#) for your website to help promote it.

[Ambassadors on the conference circuit](#)

[Author event in Sydney](#)

[Author event in Fremantle](#)

[Little Free Libraries](#)

[Library fines cancelled](#)

[Councillors' goodbye gift](#)

[Readalong dads](#)

[Spelling bee champions](#)

[Are we there yet?](#)

[Inside track](#)

[We'd love to hear from you](#)

SHARE THIS

Know someone who might be interested in this newsletter? Why not forward them this newsletter.

 [Visit the website](#)

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

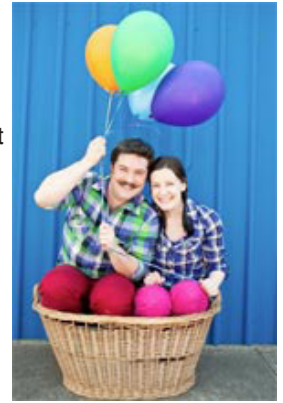
 [Wiki Page](#)

 [Logos & Resources](#)

 [Merchandise](#)

Lots of resources on our wiki

A big thanks to the Giggly Kids and their producer Matt Hills from Hillside Recordings for donating their time and talent to creating the 'We love to read' song. This joins Disney Junior's wonderful video piece, created exclusively to support The Reading Hour, encouraging families and children to share the magic of storytelling together for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week. Disney Junior has been playing the spot throughout the year, both on-air and [online](#). You will also find posters and images you can use to promote your involvement in The Reading Hour. It's all on our [wiki](#).



Reading for people in need

We're partnering with The Big Issue for The Reading Hour, with the launch on 25 August of its annual fiction edition, featuring stories by well-known writers. Every edition sold directly helps people who are homeless or disadvantaged. [Pre-order copies of The Big Issue fiction edition](#) in time for The Reading Hour and help create work for homeless and disadvantaged women. Be quick, orders close 6 August!



Library ad on TV

A big thank you to the SBS Foundation, which has awarded us with a share of \$2 million-worth of free airtime, along with 19 other not-for-profit organisations. We will be using the opportunity to promote the value of libraries during the National Year of Reading. Look out for our ad on TV, or [go to our website](#) for a sneak preview.



Adult Learners' Week short-story competition

A big thanks too to the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations, which has once again included the short story writing competition 'It's never too late... to learn to read', in its Adult Learners' Week grant funding. The competition is open until 6 August. Visit the [website](#) to find out more and download posters to promote the competition from our [wiki](#).



CONTACT US

[Brenda Currie](#)

0406 575 321

[Robyn Ellard](#)

0412 659 919

[Karen Ward-Smith](#)

0408 051 740

[Donna McDowell](#)

0488 034 125

[Sue McKerracher](#)

0404 456 749

The Library Agency
GPO Box 1551
Melbourne VIC 3001

Sharing stories of literacy students

A fuller sense of self, a collection of stories told by adult literacy students, describing their life and learning, has been distributed to public libraries across Victoria as part of the Victorian Adult Literacy and Basic Education Council (VALBEC) role as a partner in the National Year of Reading. Further copies are available from [VALBEC](#).



Governor-General supports reading

On 4 July, the Burnside Library proudly hosted a visit by Governor-General Quentin Bryce. The visit was arranged to recognise the National Year of Reading, the role of the Children's Book Council of Australia and the importance of libraries in promoting reading.



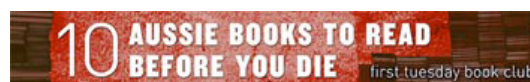
Good Reading free online

Good Reading is giving everyone interested in books and reading free access to their latest magazine online. Just visit our [homepage](#) and click on the link.



10 Aussie books to read before you die

The First Tuesday Book Club's search for the 10 Aussie books has already attracted more than 12,000 votes. Don't be shy, go to the [website](#) and vote for your favourite.



All Australian Get Reading!

Our partners at Get Reading! are running the first ever *all Australian* 50 Books You Can't Put Down campaign, featuring 50 of the year's knockout books by Aussie authors. Find out more on the [website](#).



Garth Nix on tour

In his role as a National Year of Reading ambassador, best-selling author Garth Nix hit the road this month for a series of free events with libraries and schools across the country. He even took the National Year of Reading celebration all the way to the people of Nhulunbuy, a remote community on the northern-most tip of the Gulf of Carpentaria.



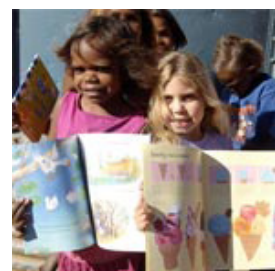
National Gallery of Australia

We are thrilled that the National Gallery of Australia has mounted an exhibition in its children's gallery, called Word Pictures, which runs until 10 February 2013, in celebration of the National Year of Reading. Find out more on the [website](#).



Books in Homes

The lovely people at Books in Homes are organising National Year of Reading book giving assemblies to help disadvantaged children and families in Australia. Visit their [website](#) for more information or contact [Kim Kingston](#).



Biggest Book Fair

Can you host a book fair for the Biggest Book Fair on Thursday 20 September, to help raise funds to teach disadvantaged Australians to read and write? Register now on the [website](#).



The Cat in the Hat

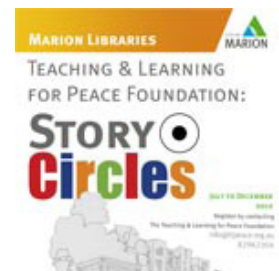
Kerri Wease, of St John Bosco School, Adelaide, tells us, 'We had a special visitor, The Cat in the Hat, come to visit for our bedtime book night event. Students got to read lots of Dr Seuss books and do heaps of activities relating to the stories. We also

had dinner, popcorn and a movie... you guessed it, *The Cat in the Hat*.'



Peace Story Circles

The Teaching and Learning for Peace Foundation is presenting Peace Story Circles throughout the second half of 2012 at the Marion Cultural Centre, south of Adelaide. More information on the [website](#).



Amaze-ing idea

West Torrens library invited local artists and West Torrens library customers to celebrate the National Year of Reading and SALA (South Australian Living Artists) by building a maze from old and damaged books that had been donated by libraries across South Australia. What a fabulous idea!



Ambassadors on the conference circuit

This month, there was a National Year of Reading day at the Australian Library and Information Association Biennial Conference in Sydney, and Public Libraries NSW based its whole three-day event 'Imagine the World' around reading. Ambassadors Anita Heiss and Richard Glover were guests at both events.

Author event in Sydney

Suzana Sukovic, at St Vincent's College, Sydney, has organised a National Year of Reading panel session at her school with broadcaster Indira Naidoo, poet and writer Richard Allen, historian Peter Read and crime fiction writer Pamela Newton. The event, entitled The Future of Writing, takes place on Tuesday 21 August, from 6pm. For more information, [email](#).

Author event in Fremantle

If you're interested in books for teens, why not attend the Celebrate Reading national conference at The Literature Centre, in Fremantle, WA, from 26 to 27 October? The line up of authors presenting across the two days includes Shaun Tan, James Roy, Matt Ottley, Julia Lawrinson, Tony Eaton, Jackie French, Gary Crew, Lucy Christopher and Isobelle Carmody. Details on the [website](#).



Little Free Libraries

Anne Tomietto and her colleagues at Goulburn Valley Regional Library have been inspired by the National Year of Reading to bring [Little Free Libraries](#) to the communities of Tungamah and Yarrawonga, Victoria. The idea comes from the US and this is



a first for Australia. The local Men's Shed group made the wooden boxes, which are now featured on the [Little Free Libraries world map](#).

Library fines cancelled

ACT chief minister and National Year of Reading ambassador Katy Gallagher has announced important changes to the Libraries ACT loans policy, including the cancellation of outstanding fines for overdue items. She said, 'Our experience has shown that fines are a major reason why people stop using the library. We want to see more people back in our libraries, where they have access to a wide range of learning resources and opportunities for both adults and children.'

Councillors' goodbye gift

Margaret James, co-ordinator of the National Year of Reading for [Mackay Regional Council Libraries](#) tells us the libraries farewelled their councillors before the local elections by giving them all a library card and an item from the collection related to their special interest, gift wrapped in a National Year of Reading poster.

Readalong dads

The Friends of Castlemaine Library (FOCAL) group has introduced 'Readalong dads' for the National Year of Reading, based on an idea operating at Risdon prison in Tasmania and in prisons in the UK and US. FOCAL is helping male inmates in Loddon prison connect with their children by giving them the opportunity to record their reading of a children's book and send it home to their family with a copy of the book, so their child can read along with them.



Spelling bee champions

To celebrate the National Year of Reading the Hills Shire Library Service, in the Sydney hills, has found its first junior Spelling Bee champions. Children tested their spelling skills across a range of words, and Mayor Greg Burnett, one of the judges, commended the library service on its initiative.



Are we there yet?

Exeter Primary School in Tasmania, has used our feature book *Are we there yet?* in a really creative way. The school has developed a trip around Australia challenge (based on the journey of the family in the story). Each week classes earn kilometres based



on the number of books children borrow from the library. When they make their weekly visit to the library they can see where they are up to on their journey and the teacher reads the relevant part of the book, building on from the previous week's location. Thanks to Jenny Johns for sharing this idea with us.

Inside track

It's not too late for libraries and bookshops to [register to be active participants](#) in the National Year of Reading. By registering, all you're doing is telling us that we can count on your support, that there will be branding on display for at least part of the year, and that you will welcome approaches from us telling you about new opportunities as they arise. And there are some great benefits to be had! Registered outlets will hear about promotions, free, downloadable materials, and advance information about national events.

We'd love to hear from you

The National Year of Reading project team, working on behalf of the founder partners – [Brenda Currie](#) - 0406 575 321, [Robyn Ellard](#) - 0412 659 919, [Karen Ward-Smith](#) - 0408 051 740, [Donna McDowell](#) - 0488 034 125 and [Sue McKerracher](#) - 0404 456 749, phone or mail us at info@thelibraryagency.org.au.

The next newsletter will be out in July. Please let us know if there's a story you would like us to include. If you have had this e-newsletter forwarded to you, and would like to receive future issues, just add your details to the mailing list on our [website](#).