

# The Reading Hour

The Reading Hour is on Saturday 25 August 2012, nominally from 6pm to 7pm AEST, but events are taking place all day, all around the country. This weekend is between the end of Children's Book Week and the start of Literacy and Numeracy Week. Although The Reading Hour has appeal for all ages, the message behind it is focused on families and sharing books with children – '10 minutes a day, an hour a week, is all it takes to give your child the gift of reading.'

There will be fantastic events happening around Australia on that day:

774 ABC Melbourne will be partnering with the Melbourne Writers Festival, for a fabulous children's event in Federation Square (BMW Edge), featuring some of Australia's most popular writers for children. Hosted by ABC 3's Kane and Amberley, Andy Griffiths, Felice Arena and Jackie French will be among the writers and authors participating in this free event. The ABC trailer will add to the fun and excitement. Child reading champions from around the country will be involved in a money-can't-buy day out event for this day.

The *Big Issue's* annual fiction edition will be the official publication for The Reading Hour. It will feature stories chosen from open submissions as well as commissioned pieces by well-known writers. This year, the fiction edition features James Franco, the Oscar-nominated actor and writer, and acclaimed locals Margo Lanagan, Tony Birch, Sophie Cunningham, James Bradley, and Wayne Macauley.

There will be a big screen simulcast link up from Sydney's Chatswood shopping centre to the screens in Perth Cultural Precinct with authors, celebrities, Marvel Super Heroes, prize giveaways, and other fun activities for all the family. We will be announcing the winners of the Scholastic/Marvel Reading Super Heroes competition [www.scholastic.com.au/minisites/readingsuperhero](http://www.scholastic.com.au/minisites/readingsuperhero) and the winners of the Adult Learners' Week short story writing

competition 'It's never too late to learn to read'.

Disney Junior has made and is airing a TV ad for The Reading Hour – view the ad on The Reading Hour website. The Walt Disney Company and Dymocks are holding pre-Reading Hour parties in Dymocks stores in July, where parents are being invited to sign a pledge to read with their children for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week, in the run up to 25 August. This sponsored commitment will raise funds for Dymocks Children's Charities, providing books to kids in disadvantaged areas.

Sydney Jewish Festival will hold a reading hour on the first day of its event; Kumon will be partnering with libraries to run events for families with English as a second language; MS Readathon will be running '60 minutes for MS' as a special Reading Hour fundraiser on Friday 24 August.

You can also find lots of local events on The Reading Hour calendar at [www.thereadinghour.org.au](http://www.thereadinghour.org.au).

So, what are you planning for The Reading Hour?



## National Year of Reading 2012

## State Library of Victoria hits major milestone

It was one small step for staff, one giant leap for digital collections as the State Library of Victoria chalked up one million newly created eRecords in its bid to make its entire heritage collection searchable online.

The one millionth record – an achievement in itself – was especially important as it marked the discovery of a rare collection of maps and plans from the American Civil War. Published in 1891, the collection was uncovered by a librarian as part of a trove of large folio books acquired by the SLV in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It is now included among the library's rare and significant objects.

The digitisation project, designed to create electronic resources for the early catalogues including over a million hand-written and type-set cards, will cost \$23 million over five years.

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