

DIRECTLINE

LOVE2READ AND THE READING HOUR

Last year I had the pleasure of working on the National Year of Reading 2012, and it has to be the best project I have ever been involved with – so much energy from partners in libraries, schools, bookshops, publishing companies, the media and, of course, terrific support from authors and illustrators.

Our project director Robyn Ellard (formerly ALIA Director of Member Services) did a fantastic job of keeping the National Year of Reading on track, managing multiple initiatives and communication channels. The ALIA Board has asked me to say a public thank you to Robyn for her work in 2012 and for generously volunteering to keep Love2Read alive in the early part of 2013, while a new project director could be found. Robyn has now stepped down and Cheryl Akle has taken over. Cheryl and her team at Trust and C run the Get Reading campaign for the Australia Council and Love2Read is a good fit, with plenty of opportunity for cross-promotion. The big Love2Read initiative for 2013 is The Reading Hour, which takes place on Saturday 24 August. For more information, check out the website www.thereadinghour.org.au.



Robyn Ellard

Cybersafety

In June, I had the pleasure of attending the Global Digital Citizenship forum, hosted by Telstra, in Melbourne. The forum brought together speakers from government (Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy), industry (Facebook,

Google, Microsoft, Yahoo!), and not-for-profits working to promote digital citizenship and counteract cyberbullying, especially for children and young people. The Alannah and Madeline Foundation (AMF) played an important role in the forum and it was good to see AMF's eSmart Libraries initiative, sponsored by the Telstra Foundation, in the spotlight.

eSmart Libraries is just about ready to roll out across all Australian public libraries and ALIA is delighted to be supporting the project through our Public Libraries Advisory Committee. I was also pleased to be able to talk to fellow delegates about our Project 13 initiative for school libraries, which we launched during Library and Information Week in May, in partnership with AMF and our colleagues in the Australian School Library Association, Softlink, and the state-based school library associations.

Cybersafety is a topic that is receiving a great deal of airtime and it is good for libraries to be at the top table, with former ALIA President Vanessa Little representing the Association on Senator Conroy's Consultative Working Group on Cybersafety. We will continue to support eSmart Libraries and develop Project 13 to ensure we make the most of the opportunities to profile the excellent work of all libraries in the area of digital citizenship.

IFLA Singapore

Are you going to IFLA in Singapore in August, or do you know someone who is attending the conference? If so, please get in touch. We are organising a reception at the High Commission in Singapore on the evening of Monday 19 August for Australian, NZ and international colleagues and we would love all our members who are at the conference to attend. Let us know you will be there and we will send you your formal invitation. Email our Events Manager Christina Granata cgranata@alia.org.au.

Sue McKerracher
ALIA Executive Director



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