

# THE SRC: A HERO TO COMBAT THE SUMMER SLIDE

**T**he Summer Reading Club is a yearly program that supports the development of multi-literacy skills in children over the summer months.

Having started in Queensland, the Summer Reading Club (SRC) has now expanded to become a nationwide literacy-enhancing behemoth, helping young people maintain their literacy skills and not letting them slide throughout the languid summer months.

## JOIN THE SUMMER READING CLUB – BE A HERO IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

Summer reading clubs are a time-honoured tradition that public libraries use to engage with children and families during the summer months. Participation in summer reading clubs helps to combat the loss of learning over the summer, often referred to as the 'summer slide'. By providing access to books and opportunities that extend connections to literature through arts and multimedia activities, libraries are equipped to support the continued development of children's multi-literacy skills during the holidays by delivering fun, recreational reading programs.

Last year 48,500 Australian children joined the club, reading almost 334,000 books.

## THE AUSTRALIAN SUMMER READING CLUB

Led by the State Library of Queensland in partnership with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA), Australian Public Libraries Alliance (APLA) and public libraries across Australia, the Australian (SRC) aims to assist public libraries in stimulating a love of recreational reading and building the library habit. During the summer months, children and families participate in SRC activities and programs across Australia, both online and in library spaces.

In 2015, 74 per cent of Australian public libraries participated in the SRC program. They were aiming to slow down the summer slide, but they also saw increases in library use and the number of visits by children and young people, and increased in circulation numbers. They also obtained great satisfaction from their ability to motivate children to read and engage with library collections.

## FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMING

The SRC program is designed to be a flexible, fun and practical program that can be adapted to suit the needs of individual libraries.



Participating libraries receive access to downloadable program materials and ongoing support to deliver their local programs. With access to themed merchandise, marketing materials and templates, libraries can draw on a suite of resources to deliver, promote and reward participation in their local programs.

The Summer Reading Club website, created to extend SRC programming into homes, supports connections to literature and provides children and young people with exposure to Australian authors and illustrators. This year's program will include online blogs with Australian Children's Laureate Leigh Hobbs, and 2013 Maurice Saxby Award recipient Deborah Abela.

## SRC 2016: HEROES AND VILLAINS

Get ready to unleash your imagination in the discovery of heroes, villains, sidekicks and more in the 2016 SRC program, Heroes and Villains.

This year's programming theme encourages libraries to help children and young people explore the themes and conventions associated with super- and everyday heroes – and their villainous counterparts.

## HOW CAN YOUR LIBRARY GET INVOLVED?

The 2016 Summer Reading Club Heroes and Villains program will be delivered nationally from 1 December 2016 to 31 January 2017.

Involvement in the Summer Reading Club is easy, cost effective and fun. Registration is free – simply complete the online registration form at [summerreadingclub.org.au](http://summerreadingclub.org.au) to receive confirmation of participation.

To contact the Summer Reading Club program coordinators, please email [summerreadingclub@slq.qld.gov.au](mailto:summerreadingclub@slq.qld.gov.au), phone 07 3840 7853 or visit the SRC website [summerreadingclub.org.au](http://summerreadingclub.org.au). 