



Celebrating National Simultaneous Storytime 2016

# IT'S A WRAP – LIBRARY AND INFORMATION WEEK

*It was another successful and very active Library and Information Week (23–29 May), and this year's theme was 'Discover More'. HEATHER WELLARD recaps the week-long celebration of the contributions of our libraries and library professionals and how we promote library use and support. All types of libraries participate – school, public, academic and special.*

## MONDAY

The week started with a bang as we announced the top 10 list of #fabulousfinds – the culmination of a three-month campaign to search for the treasures, the wonderful and the useful held in library collections. It prompted a lot of media discussions around what libraries do, the amazing resources and courses they offer, the historical and rare items that are held as well as the cutting-edge technology that can be accessed. ALIA CEO Sue McKerracher spent her time sharing the list and highlighting libraries' important work to the media and other stakeholders. Sharing the #fabulousfinds was a hit on social media.

## TUESDAY

ALIA partnered with Civica to issue a joint media release on the most borrowed books. British thriller author Lee Child's 'Jack Reacher' series of novels has dominated the list of most borrowed library books in Australia and New Zealand this year. Library users had the biggest appetite for crime, mystery and thriller novels. Other fiction genres, such as romance, fantasy and graphic novels, were also

highly popular among readers. Romance was the second-most popular category, behind crime and thrillers. Interest in the 'Jack Reacher' novels may have been driven by the news that a second movie adaptation from the series is currently in production, boosting interest in the books. Once again there was a lot of media interest in the lists, and our CEO completed radio interviews in every state and territory. It was also National Library Technicians' Day – an opportunity for library technicians to promote ALIA, the profession, and their role in libraries and to celebrate their many achievements.

## WEDNESDAY

More than half a million children in more than 3,000 locations took part in National Simultaneous Storytime. This year the book was *I Got this Hat* by Jol and Kate Temple and illustrated by Jon Foye. It's a funny, rhyming tale about the surprisingly large world of hats. There were some special events where the book was enjoyed with celebrities, and the NRL joined us again as a partner, so footy stars read the book aloud at local events. Social media was alive with mad-hatted participants and it was a lot of fun watching the hat craziness unfold.

## THURSDAY

Libraries are part of the community and they love giving back. They participated in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea to raise money to help those affected by cancer. Donations help the Cancer Council's research, prevention and support service programs.

## FRIDAY

ALIA Day is all about what Membership delivers to LIS staff. Join more than 4,800 Members in ALIA, which supports and enhances your career, knowledge and abilities. By joining the ALIA team we all become stronger – and are empowered to access solutions and resources to address issues that would otherwise be faced alone. ✨

