

Australian Reading Hour

The Australian Reading Hour is fast approaching and it promises to be one of the best yet, because it's supported this year by five major organisations, including ALIA. GREG BELL looks at how you can get involved.

The Australian Reading Hour is an exciting national campaign that encourages Australians of all ages to read for one hour on Thursday 14 September. Schools, libraries, families and individuals across Australia will be embracing the benefits of reading.


While picking up and reading a book for an hour may sound simple, reading for pleasure is the most important indicator of the future success of a child. The Australian Reading Hour builds on recent research which found that Australians rate reading as their most enjoyable leisure activity, over watching television or playing sport. Reading

reduces stress by 68 per cent, and does so faster than listening to music or going for a walk.

Many authors around the country will be celebrating this initiative, and libraries and schools are invited to choose their own local ambassador for the day, whether they be a librarian, author, teacher, parent or councillor. Authors and ambassadors for national events have been announced on the website. The Australian Reading Hour is also a great opportunity to enjoy books by Australian and Indigenous authors. A recent survey by Macquarie University revealed that 71 per cent of respondents believe it is important for Australian children to read books set in Australia, written by Australian authors. Almost two-thirds of Australians believe that books by Indigenous Australian writers are important for Australian culture.

ALIA has a long-term commitment to this campaign. In 2012, Australian libraries and library associations came together behind the National Year of Reading, linking all the great things that were already happening around books, reading and literacy, and giving them an extra boost, with inspirational programs and events taking place across the country. There were more than 4000 events, \$5.6 million in in-kind support, \$26 million-worth of media coverage, much of it highlighting the fact that nearly half the population struggles without the literacy skills to meet the most basic demands of everyday life and work. Following on from the success of the campaign, the 15 founding partners decided to carry forward the Love2Read brand into 2013 and the Australian Reading Hour emerged from this collaboration.

Now it has grown into an even bigger event. In an historic first, the Australian Reading Hour is now supported by five major organisations including ALIA, the Australian Society of Authors, the Australian Publishers Association, the Australian Booksellers Association and the Copyright Agency. ALIA acknowledges the Copyright Agency for supporting this project through its Cultural Fund.

Everything you need to know about the event, including registration and fun downloadable resources can be found at readinghour.org.au. Choose a venue, an ambassador, and a great Australian book, and register your event on the Australian Reading Hour website. 



Goals A+N has successfully planned and managed numerous library relocations – both large and small. We pack and unpack sequentially, replicating your preferred shelving system. We can also help with interfiling, archiving or changing to a new shelving system.



GOALS A+N
PLAN + MANAGE + MOVE



Call 1300 35 36 37 or visit www.goalsan.com.au