



# National Year of Reading 2012

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## Find out who's on the Our Story shortlist

Australia's National Year of Reading 2012 starts here, with the opportunity for everyone to vote for the book that they think should represent their state or territory as one of the eight on our national recommended reading list for 2012 – and we're delighted to announce that we're partnering with the ABC and the First Tuesday Book Club for this one.

Margaret Allen, chair of the National Year of Reading founders and State Librarian of WA, explains, "For 2012, we're creating a collection of books which, read together, describe the Australian experience. We all know how very different it is if you're living in the city or in a remote community; in the Northern Territory or New South Wales. We're hoping that thousands of readers will take a journey around Australia through the pages of these eight books and come out of it with an even greater depth of understanding about what it means to be Australian."

The list of eight winning titles and the start of Australia's biggest book group for the National Year of Reading will be announced at the launch of the campaign on 14 February, 2012, at the National Library of Australia in Canberra. From 1 November, existing book groups, new groups and individual readers can go online and register at [TheReadingRoom.com](http://TheReadingRoom.com) to join in the discussion about the shortlist and then the final eight books the nation has chosen.

The state and territory shortlists, chosen by independent panels of readers, have been announced and are available on the [National Year of Reading website](http://National Year of Reading website). Voting commences **1 November 2011**, online at [www.abc.net.au/yearofreading](http://www.abc.net.au/yearofreading) and in participating libraries and book shops. The closing date is **6 January 2012**.

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# Aiming for 29 Councils across Tasmania

Launceston City Council has passed a motion that it will “seek the involvement and support of all councils in Tasmania to recognise and endorse the National Year of Reading 2012”. Alderman Ted Sands in Launceston told us, “The promotional arm of the town traders is very excited about becoming involved, and will be contacting all traders to embrace the concept. We will be having one big day in the heart of the city right outside the library. There will be fun activities for kids and we’re hoping to tie it in with our annual ‘festival’ in February. That’s three days of food and wine ... and reading.” We have some great supporters based in Hobart too, not least our founder partner the State Library, and Adult Learners’ Week partner the Tasmanian Writers’ Centre, so we’re hopeful that this motion will be adopted right across the State.

## Key partners for The Reading Hour

The Reading Hour on 25 August 2012 will be both a focal point for the National Year of Reading 2012 for all age groups and also the call to action for families – “share a book with your child for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week”.

The key partners for The Reading Hour are Dymocks, Scholastic and The Walt Disney Company. Together, Dymocks and Disney have exciting plans for activities beginning in the first half of 2012 and leading up to the big day on 25 August, while Scholastic will be promoting The Reading Hour through its network of schools and parent groups.

The Reading Hour is nominally 6pm to 7pm on 25 August, but events will be happening all day, to avoid or coincide with important sporting fixtures and venue opening hours, and to accommodate the different time zones. Events will take place in libraries, bookstores and other public places.

## Ambassadors

We have an amazing line up of wonderful ambassadors for the National Year of Reading, and more on the way. This month, Kevin Rudd, not only Foreign Minister, but also co-author with Rhys Muldoon, of Jasper and Abby and the Great Australia Day Kerfuffle; Oscar-winning author illustrator Shaun Tan; multi-award winning author Anh Do; youth literature champion Susanne Gervay; broadcaster, writer, columnist Richard Glover and oil-man turned writer Paul



Carter have agreed to help us promote reading during 2012. We’re also delighted to have on board several ambassadors with a sporting flavour. There’s Felice Arena, co-author of the Specky Magee books, the Melbourne Demons, and, from the Northern Territory, footie brothers Cameron and Jarred Ilett, and amazing athlete Nova Peris. Keep checking the [website](#) to find out the latest VIP supporters.

## See and hear our stories

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We now have our own [YouTube channel](#) and we've uploaded some of the video we shot at the soft launch at Bialik College in September (thank you Ryan from Dream Engine). There's a particularly heart-felt comment from our patron William McInnes.

We also love what Joffre Street Productions has done with the recordings for the Adult Learners' Week short story competition winners. There are quite a few already available on [our website](#) and more will be added over the next week or so.

## An L of a Difference

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Ambassador Hazel Edwards has been incredibly generous with her time and energy and now she's added a performance script about adult literacy to her website that anyone can [download](#) and use. It costs just \$5 (to cover design and production of the publication). The script, about a 40-something, attractive, resourceful woman learning to read, is funny and engaging and would be perfect for local radio or a conference performance. [Visit the website.](#)

## City of Joondalup library cards

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A terrific initiative from the City of Joondalup, creating special National Year of Reading library cards for 2012. According to library services coordinator Lynley



Stapleton, the stocks have arrived and the cards will roll out as soon as they've run out of the current stock in November this year.

## Library or bookshop? Register now

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There are some great benefits to be had by registering your library or bookstore with the National Year of Reading. Registered outlets will hear about promotions, free, downloadable materials, and advance information about national events. All you have to do is complete the registration form on our [website](#) by 15 November 2011.

## Make your own merchandise

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We have an account with Café Press for small orders of T-shirts, mugs, mousemats and lots of other items, but this is expensive for long runs. Why not download the logo from [our website](#) or [wiki](#) and make your own.

## Your dates on our calendar

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We're putting together a calendar of events for 2012 and even if you haven't finalised the dates, we'd love to hear what you're planning for the National Year of Reading. We need to develop the bigger picture of who's doing what, so please send a 'heads up' to [brenda@thelibraryagency.org.au](mailto:brenda@thelibraryagency.org.au).

There are already some great initiatives happening around the country, which can be given a National Year of Reading flavour. One example takes place on 4 -5 November 2011, when the Logan-Beaudesert Child Friendly Community Consortium will be hosting Building a Child Friendly Community. Speakers at this national conference include Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia. For more information visit the [website](#) or call Sarah Cleaves on 0411 155 271.

## Getting around

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We're looking forward to attending the School Library Association of Victoria conference on 11 November and the NSW Metropolitan Public Libraries Association SWITCH conference and exhibition in Sydney from 20-23 November. If you're going to one of these events, we hope to see you there.

## We'd love to hear from you

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The National Year of Reading project team, working on behalf of the founder partners – [Brenda Currie](#) - 0406 575 321, [Robyn Ellard](#) - 0412 659 919, [Karen Ward-Smith](#) - 0408 051 740 and [Sue McKerracher](#) - 0404 456 749, phone or mail us at [info@thelibraryagency.org.au](mailto:info@thelibraryagency.org.au).

The next newsletter will be out early in November. Please let us know if there's a story you would like us to include. If you have had this e-newsletter forwarded to you, and would like to receive future issues, just add your details to the mailing list on our [website](#).