

National Year of Reading 2012



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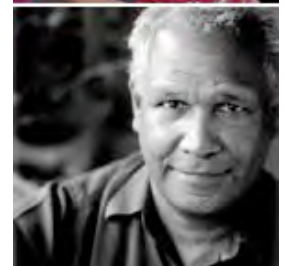
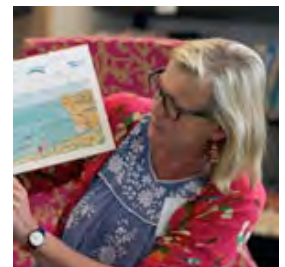
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Australia's first Children's Laureates

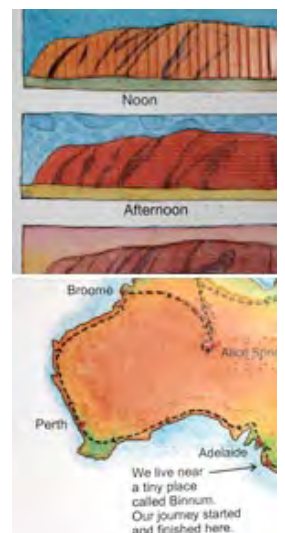
The Australian Children's Literature Alliance has launched its Children's Laureate program with not one, but two inaugural Children's Laureates. Award-winning author and illustrator Alison Lester and storyteller Boori Monty Pryor were presented with the title on Saturday 10 December, at a special event at Carclew Youth Arts, in Adelaide. Guests included the South Australian Minister for Education and Child Development Grace Portolesi and Noni Hazlehurst, much-loved actress and former Playschool presenter. Find out more on the [website](#).



Reading without seeing

For more than 100 years, Vision Australia has helped thousands of Australians negotiate blindness or low vision through its library, providing free braille and talking books. For 2012 it has partnered with the National Year of Reading to transcribe our theme book for children, Alison Lester's *Are We There Yet?* into a beautiful braille copy, complete with tactile illustrations. Everyone who saw it at the SWITCH conference in Sydney last month loved it.

Vision Australia has also produced a special talking book version, with navigable text, through DAISY formatting. This is great for members



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with dyslexia (a perceptual handicap) or a print handicap, such as MS or arthritis, who can listen and read along. Find out more on the [website](#).

Our Story voting

Have you voted yet for the book to represent your state or territory in the National Year of Reading book club collection for 2012? More than 7,000 votes had been registered by the end of November online at the [ABC site](#). It's not too late to have your say – voting doesn't end until 6 January 2012.

In the news

Since 1 November, when voting for Our Story opened online, media coverage has begun to pop up everywhere, although the official launch of the National Year of Reading is not until 14 February. We have more than 100 newspaper cuttings, online posts, radio and TV clips to date, and our media monitoring house is sending through more and more each day. Journalists are definitely interested in the National Year of Reading and we're hoping all our partners, friends and ambassadors will be able to take advantage of the intense media interest.

Launch day approaching

We've had news of some wonderfully inventive state, territory and local launches for the National Year of Reading all around Australia during February. They include a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne; a celebration of reading in Adelaide's Rundle Mall; readings from books that have inspired local people, at Hawkesbury Central Library, NSW, and the opening of the Are We There Yet? exhibition at the Northern Territory Library, in Darwin.

The national event takes place at the National Library of Australia in Canberra on 14 February. It will be hosted by our patron William McInnes and by the ABC's Jennifer Byrne, with guests including VIPs from the worlds of government, entertainment, books and publishing.



Education Minister impresses class

Teacher librarian Margaret Kittson took the opportunity to ask Queensland Education Minister Cameron Dick to be an ambassador for the National Year of Reading when he visited Holland Park State School in October. He said yes, and expressed a special interest in Queensland's Dads Read campaign for 2012. He came back to the school as a National Year of Reading ambassador last month and read Hairy Maclary's Bone to a Year 1 class. Margaret says the students loved it.



Fully informed

The State Library of Victoria held an information session on 2 December for booksellers, publishers, literacy organisations, library people and others who are interested in participating in the National Year of Reading. More than 160 people attended the event and heard about some great initiatives for next year, including the City of Yarra's pedal-powered book delivery service, which shared first prize in the Libmark National Year of Reading marketing competition with an idea to take reading to the Broadmeadows shopping centre. The new library cargo bike, featuring the National Year of Reading logo, will be out and about in the streets during 2012.

The Big Issue

The Big Issue is partnering with the National Year of Reading and by coincidence, the magazine's 400th issue will come out around 14 February 2012, our launch date. We love the way the organisation provides hope, dignity and a pathway out of poverty for many homeless people, and we'd love to you take a look at its Women's Subscription Enterprise. If every public library and bookshop took out at least one subscription (for only \$155) it would mean jobs for at least 20 homeless women. Find out more on the [website](#).



You can't miss it on the fridge

We're very excited about some gorgeous magnets, stickers and leaflets encouraging parents to read with their children. They're available in a number of languages, all branded National Year of Reading and at a very reasonable price from the Australian Literacy Educators Association. The order form is on the [wiki](#).



Another special offer

The Entertainment Store is offering a 50% discount on character appearances in libraries next year. There are lots of characters straight out of the pages of children's books. [Take a look at the flyer on the wiki](#).



Last minute Christmas gifts

If you still haven't braved the shops for Christmas gifts, you might like to look at our partner The Book Chook's list of children's books for the festive season. You'll find Book Chook Susan Stephenson's ideas on [her blog](#).

Lively performances

There are all kinds of great performers – storytellers, actors, singers, musicians – keen to bring the National Year of Reading to life. The Splash Theatre Company is a great example. On 1 March 2012 (World Book Day), they'll be presenting Mr Badger tells the story of *The Wind in the Willows* to children as part of the Adelaide Fringe. Find out more about Splash Theatre Company and others on our [wiki](#).



Beach party wrap up

West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation is already planning a great fun event for November 2012 as the round up for the National Year of Reading Are We There Yet? theme. Author and Children's Laureate Alison Lester will be joining specially invited guests and the local community for a beach party and lunch-time reception in Inverloch, on the Victorian coast. One of the fun groups represented will be the Swell Mamas, mums who like to read and surf – but not at the same time.



Inside track

It's not too late for libraries and bookshops to [register to be active participants in the National Year of Reading](#). By registering, all you're doing is telling us that we can count on your support, that there will be branding on display for at least part of the year, and that you will welcome approaches from us telling you about new opportunities as they arise. And there are some great benefits to be had! Registered outlets will hear about promotions, free, downloadable materials, and advance information about national events.

We'd love to hear from you

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.

The next newsletter will be out in January. 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](#).