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Karen Bonanno, from the Australian School Library Association, and Rhonda Powling, from the School Library Association of Victoria, were joined by lots of teacher librarians.

The Entertainment Store sent along Snoopy, Angelina Ballerina and Mr Bump, all of whom will be available to visit libraries during 2012.



We were honoured to have local MP Josh Frydenberg join us, and we had our friends from the Copyright Agency Ltd, MS Readathon, Disney, Melbourne Prize Trust, National Sports Museum, Speech Pathology Australia, Australian Business Arts Foundation, Let's Read, Australian Council for Adult Literacy, Children's Book Council of Australia, Kids Own Publishing, Read Like A Demon, as well as library suppliers and members of Public Libraries Victoria Network.

And the Year 10 students from Bialik College, Melbourne Girls' College, Melbourne High School, Warnambool Secondary College and Dandenong High School really made the event go with a swing.



New Love2read website

A big thank you to our web team Andrew and John at Flip, who created our new website in time for the soft launch on 1 September. Our patron William McInnes and Bialik library director David Feighan unveiled the site, which is designed to be much more newsy than our old one. It will feature content for Australians looking for reading information and inspiration, rather than the nuts and bolts of the National Year of Reading campaign for library teams and other reading professionals.



The behind-the-scenes information has been transferred to our [wiki](#) and you can find logos, flyer downloads, research papers, FAQs and other resources on this interactive site.

Love2read book group for 2012

The NSW Readers Advisory Working Group, made up of NSW public librarians and our great friend Ellen Forsyth, from the State Library of NSW, has started up the Love2read reading group for 2012, with its own Twitter feed and blog.

They say, "To celebrate the joys of reading, each month in 2012 readers

will be reading around a particular theme. As well as discussing what they are reading in book groups, at their local library and with friends and family, some readers will also be tweeting about their reading.

“To be involved in this reading group, you don’t have to tweet – you can just read along each month if you like. But if you tweet about what you are reading by tagging your posts with #NYR12, other people will see what you are reading and might start conversations with you.”

[Find out more.](#)

Indigenous Literacy Day festival

Great to hear from our partners the IAD Press that its Indigenous Literacy Day event on 7 September went well. We had provided support funding from the Copyright Agency Ltd, to make this the precursor to a larger National Year of Reading event which we hope to run in Darwin next year.

At the IAD Press’s Alice Springs festival, three school groups attended a workshop with illustrator Brenton McKenna, and two others came along to enjoy the music, readings, and the opportunity to mix and mingle with local authors. The event was featured on radio and in the Koori Mail, and the IAD Press team has already had enquiries from the writing community about whether they will be running a similar event next year.

Congratulations to the winners...

... Of our Adult Learners’ Week short story writing competition. You will find the names of our 21 winners, who share a prize pool of \$45,000, and our six highly commended entrants, on our [website](#) . Some of the stories are sad, some are funny, all are inspirational. Why not download them and find out what made them our judges’ top choices?

Your dates on our calendar

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.

There are already some great initiatives happening around the country, which can be given a National Year of Reading flavour. One example is PAINT THE TOWN REaD, which began in Parkes, NSW, in 1996, and has now been adopted by 50 towns. It’s a huge, fun-filled, creative campaign, with everyone wearing red to show they’re “well-read”. Activities have involved fire engines, Reading Bugs, VIP readers, including MPs and Mayors, as well as a community reading day. NSW Governor Marie Bashir is the vice-regal patron for the project.

Getting around

We're looking forward to a few events coming up – the Queensland Public Library Association conference, 26-28 September; the Australian School Library Association conference, 3 October; 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 attending one of these events, we hope to see you there.

The Australian Library and Information Association Children's and Youth Services (NSW) group is also holding a [National Year of Reading "unconference"](#) on 17 October, at Whitlam Library, to brainstorm ideas for programs in public libraries during 2012. There will be [tweeting](#) from the event, if you want to listen in.

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 the first week of October, so 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](#).