

# National Year of Reading 2012



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## Front page news

Have you seen the September issue of *Good Reading*? We're on the front cover, the inside cover, and there's a double page spread about the National Year of Reading inside. Place your order for a copy with your local bookseller, library or newsagent. And just to note, there are two special National Year of Reading editions of *Good Reading* coming up in February and August 2012. If you'd like quite a few copies, it's best to get in touch with [subscriptions@goodreadingmagazine.com.au](mailto:subscriptions@goodreadingmagazine.com.au).



## Soft launch for the National Year of Reading

Tomorrow, Thursday 1 September, we're holding a soft launch event at Bialik College, in Melbourne. It started out as tea, cake and the chance to show off our new website to a few people. It has turned into a VIP reception, with quite a few of our founder partners, partners, ambassadors and friends coming along. Bialik's new library has plenty of space and, thankfully, the school management team is very accommodating. Look out for the photos in next month's newsletter.

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## CONTACT US

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## Famous faces

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We are well on our way to our target of 45 national ambassadors for the National Year of Reading (one for each week of 2012 from our launch on 14 February). Concert pianist and writer Anna Goldsworthy, author Libby Gleeson, Melbourne's Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, and children's hero Andy Griffiths are the new additions to our website. It's great to have such a good spread of ambassadors, appealing to all ages.



## Adult Learners Week

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It starts tomorrow, and our patron William McInnes and Mary Delahunty, national director of Writing Australia, will be announcing the winners of the National Year of Reading It's Never Too Late ... To Learn To Read competition at our soft launch event (see above). The prize is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), through Adult Learners' Week National Grant Funding. We can't break the embargo, even by a day, but the stories will be going straight up on our website. We had a fantastic response – more than 280 entries, all of a very high standard – and thank you to the teams at the Tasmanian Writers Centre and Writing Australia, who have managed the competition so professionally.

## Social media

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We've just hit 1500 followers for the National Year of Reading on Facebook this week, and we've more than 600 on Twitter. No shortage of news to keep our social media channels active and we'd love to hear from you – just follow the links on the side panel to post to our wall and add your own 140 character or less message (hash tag #NYR12).

## Felicitous outcome

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We travelled to Euroa to meet the Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation earlier this month and the team told us they'd love Felice Arena (*Specky McGee* co-author) to be one of our ambassadors. Well, the good news is that Felice has said yes! Thanks to Eric at AbaF Victoria for putting us in touch.

## Getting around

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We're looking forward to a few events coming up – the Public Libraries SA conference,

session on 6 September; 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 from 20-23 November. If you're attending one of these events, we hope to see you there.

## Australian Children's Literature Alliance

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We're working with ACLA to support the appointment of the first Australian Children's Laureate in time for 2012. The announcement will be in December and we're looking forward to announcing the Laureate in our final newsletter of this year.

## Is it a bird house? No it's a library.

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Little Free Libraries are springing up around the US (this one outside a dental surgery) and we got in touch with co-founder Rick Brooks, to see what he thought about the idea taking off over here as part of the National Year of Reading. He told us, "Not to be too hyperbolic about



it, but when I come to Australia I fully expect to see people on every bench, street corner, bus stop and rocking chair reading something important and sharing their thoughts about it. And we hope to see Little Free Libraries as part of the strategy for promoting such a picture. Let's have a goal of, say, a few hundred Little Libraries or more in 2012, and the momentum to build even more around the world. We're looking forward to putting Australia's first Little Library on the map and telling your story."

## 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 start building up the bigger picture of who's doing what, so please send a 'heads up' to [brenda@thelibraryagency.org.au](mailto:brenda@thelibraryagency.org.au).

## 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](mailto:brenda@thelibraryagency.org.au) - 0406 575 321, [Robyn Ellard](mailto:robyn@thelibraryagency.org.au) - 0412 659 919 and [Sue McKerracher](mailto:sue@thelibraryagency.org.au) - 0404 456 749, phone or mail us at [info@thelibraryagency.org.au](mailto:info@thelibraryagency.org.au).

The next newsletter will be out at the end of September, 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](#).