

# National Year of Reading 2012

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## Gearing up for the launch

We're hearing about more and more launch events for 14 February, not only our own at the National Library, hosted by the ABC's Jennifer Byrne, but at venues all around the country.

Here's just one example. The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne is holding a romance-themed festival of reading in the Main Street of the hospital, with roving musicians serenading patients, visitors and staff. The Main Street will be transformed into a Lane of Literature for the day, with author visits, special guest appearances and a giant Valentine's card filled with 'I love2read' messages from children, families and hospital staff.



## Diaries filling up

Take a look at our much expanded events calendar on our [website](#) and you'll find more than 150 activities for 2012 already listed. Random examples are:

- author Elliot Perlman in conversation at Fitzroy Town Hall, VIC, on 22 February;
- Saturday Storytime @ Your Library, in City of Joondalup libraries, WA, from February to November;
- Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale, NSW, from 22 to 25 July.

There's lots happening all around the country, right through the year and more events are being added every day. You can [add your own event direct to the calendar](#).

## SHARE THIS

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## Talking website

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[ReadSpeaker](#) is one of our new partners, and made us a really generous offer to put its wonderful technology to work on our website. ReadSpeaker has provided us with a speech engine which turns the text on the screen into natural sounding speech at the click of a mouse. Just go to our website, click on the "Listen to this page button" and away you go. The words will be highlighted as they are read out, which is a real bonus for people learning to read.

## Our Story and the ones that got away

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No, we can't tell you the winning eight titles in our search for a book to represent each state and territory in the National Year of Reading collection for 2012, but we can tell you that the voting has now closed, with more than 16,000 votes registered online at the ABC and as physical voting slips through libraries. The names of the winners will be announced on 14 February and that's the starting point for Australia's biggest book group.

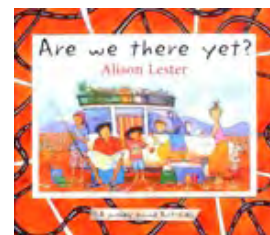
Meanwhile, we had quite a few people tell us about the ones that got away – the books they thought should have been on our shortlist. These were their suggestions:

- *Sun on the Stubble*, Colin Thiele
- *Storm Boy*, Colin Thiele
- *Robbery Under Arms*, Rolf Boldrewood
- *Voss*, Patrick White
- *Nice Try*, Shane Maloney
- *Winter Game*, Robert Pascoe
- *Jessica*, Bryce Courtney
- *A Waltz for Matilda*, Jackie French
- *The Watcher on the Cast Iron Balcony*, Hal Porter
- *Sorry*, Gail Jones
- *The Secret River*, Kate Grenville
- *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*, Richard Flanagan
- *Every Secret Thing*, Marie Munkara
- *Monkey Grip*, Helen Garner
- *Aunts up the Cross*, Robin Dalton
- *The Children*, Charlotte Wood
- *The Old School*, P M Newton
- *The Amazing People of Sydney*, Dr Charles Margerison
- *The Butterfly Man*, Heather Rose
- *Hunting the Wild Pineapple*, Thea Astley
- *The Colony*, Grace Karskens
- *The Service of Clouds*, Delia Falconer
- *Sydney*, Delia Falconer
- *Truth*, Peter Temple

And something by Nick Earls.

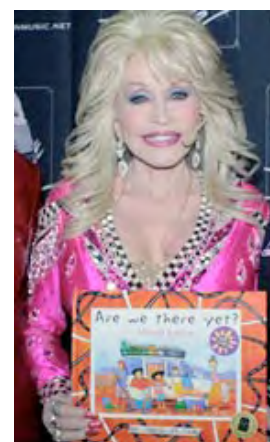
## Are We There Yet? touring exhibition

The [National Year of Reading touring exhibition](#) is on its way to its first stop, Darwin, where it opens on 1 February. Books Illustrated has done an amazing job putting the exhibition together for us, with panels of the original artwork and working drawings from Alison Lester's book *Are We There Yet?*, as well as stand-up characters, pull up banners, diary notes, map, and even Alison's original watermelon hat.



## Dolly supports the National Year of Reading

We were incredibly lucky to meet up with Dolly Parton while she was performing in Melbourne in November. Knowing her interest in books for kids, with her own [Imagination Library](#), we gave her a copy of *Are We There Yet?* to take back home with her. She was delighted to have a book about Australia that she could read to her young nieces and nephews.



## Making the headlines on Australia Day

[Life Matters](#) did a fantastic program all about reading and the National Year of Reading on Australia Day. Presenter Natasha Mitchell's guests included our patron William McInnes, founder partner Jane Cowell from the State Library of Queensland, and ambassador Libby Gleeson.



The media has really picked up on the National Year of Reading and our monitoring service has been sending us newspaper cuttings, radio reports and online mentions at the rate of around 50 items per week. And that's before the big launch on 14 February.

## Front covers

We really love the February issue of *Good Reading Magazine*. We've not only got a very gorgeous purple front cover, but also more than 20 pages of editorial. If you want to order copies, contact [subscriptions](#).



[Inside History](#) put National Year of Reading on the front cover for its January-February issue, with a competition for readers to vote for their favourite history book. We'll find out the winner in October. Another great plug for the campaign.

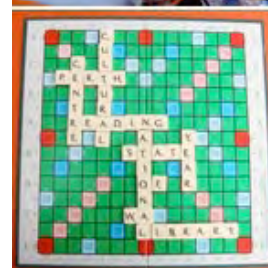


And our partner [Read Write Now](#), in WA, has produced a wonderful publication called Journeys, for adults learning to read. It's based on our Adult Learners' Week short story writing competition. It's print only, not online. Contact [Read Write Now](#) for more information.

## Grab a coffee and a book

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The Love2Read Café has opened in the canopied area in front of the State Library of WA, creating a new venue within the Perth Cultural Centre. The outdoor reading room is based on the Bryant Park model in New York and it's open from 21 January until 26 February. There will be lots of events taking place, all of them free. People can also share a quote from their favourite book on the Reading Wall inside the library and there's always the Scrabble board...



## A really great line up of ambassadors

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Our line up of ambassadors is nearly complete and we're adding our VIPs to the website as quickly as we can, but keep checking back to find out who's new.

Just before Christmas the ACT announced its National Year of Reading ambassadors, including the Chief Minister Katy Gallagher; authors Jackie French, Marion Halligan, Jack Heath and Tania McCartney; sporting heroes Jess Bibby, Canberra Capitals, Phil Davis, Greater Western Sydney Giants, Grace Gill, Canberra United and Matt Toomua, ACT Brumbies and, for that extra splash of colour, the Canberra Roller Derby League. View the full list at on the [website](#).



## Book your ticket for the Dromkeen dinner

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The 31st annual Dromkeen Dinner will be held on 25 February, in the Cowen Gallery at the State Library of Victoria. It's usually held at Dromkeen, home to a wonderful collection of children's picture book art, but as it's the National Year of Reading, the event is being scaled up. Ursula Duborsarsky will present the Courtney and Joyce Oldmeadow lecture and the Dromkeen Medal will be awarded to Libby Gleeson.

Call 03 5428 6799 for invitations and more information about the event.

## 366 days of writing

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The NSW Writers' Centre has an ambitious project to post a book review every day during 2012. [See how they're getting on and contribute your own 200 to 400 word entry.](#)

## Flower power

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The State Library of Queensland has produced its own balloons, other libraries have made wristbands, mousemats and T-shirts – our National Year of Reading flower is getting everywhere, even onto lollies.

If you're looking for readymade collateral, the Australian Literacy Educators Association has produced magnets, stickers and leaflets encouraging parents to read with their children. The order form is on the [wiki](#).

The team at [Syba Signs](#) has created lots of banners and other branding materials – again, you can find them on our [wiki](#). We particularly enjoyed the [video](#) showing how to put up your National Year of Reading decal.

## Inside track

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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

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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, [Donna McDowell](#) - 0488 034 125 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 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](#).