

It's our National Year of Reading: make the most of it

What an amazing start to 2012! It was my great pleasure as ALIA President and Chair of the National Year of Reading Founding Partners to greet the Prime Minister for the launch of the National Year of Reading 2012 at the National Library of Australia in Canberra on February 14th. It was a wonderful day and a great success, with the Prime Minister and Ministers Crean and Garrett all speaking of their admiration and support for libraries and their personal stories of the enjoyment of reading.

As one member remarked on the day, never before have we had the Prime Minister and two senior Ministers all together talking publicly about libraries and their value to Australia. The National Year of Reading provides an opportunity for ALIA, and for individual members, to continue this conversation at all levels of the political landscape.

Around the nation in capital cities, in metropolitan areas, and in country and regional centres; in public, state, territory, school, university, and TAFE libraries, celebrations were held to launch the National Year of Reading. Premiers, Mayors, and celebrities alike spoke of their love of reading and libraries, even more fitting because, of course, on February 14th, we also Library Lovers Day (www.librarylovers.org.au), another ALIA

advocacy campaign.

ALIA has been a driving force behind the National Year of Reading. As the auspicing body and lead founding partner, your membership sees you all as part of this important initiative. I also want to stress that this is not just a public library project – reading and literacy are at the heart of what we do as a profession. Literacy is fundamental to be able to access and use information, so this is an initiative that is for all libraries and information services, and our profession as a whole.

As Jennifer Byrne, our host for the official launch, and Minister Crean reminded us all, workplace literacy initiatives will also be an important focus for the year.

As well as providing librarians, information professionals, and libraries with a framework to raise their profile with their communities, parent organisations, and funding bodies, NYR will also provides important and ongoing advocacy opportunities for the Association throughout the year. Towards the end of 2012 a closing event is being planned which will include discussion of the opportunities created by the year to promote the work of libraries after 2012 and which we hope will provide the basis for further lobbying and advocacy opportunities.



My thanks to the ALIA National Office Staff, the National Year of Reading project team and our founding partner colleagues for all their hard work bringing it all together over the last 18 months, and to all Australian libraries and information services that have already taken the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of the 2012 National Year of Reading. I would also like to acknowledge the Federal Government for their funding support for the National Year of Reading, without which 2012 would be shaping up as a very different year.

Whatever type of library or information service you might work in, it is not too late to be involved. Register your library, receive the monthly newsletter, hold an event and become a partner at www.love2read.org.au.

Margaret Allen
ALIA President
margaret.allen@alia.org.au

INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

Top trends in 2012: introducing the 'Internet of Things'

Gartner has just released its annual survey of top trends. The rise of cloud computing applications and increasing mobile applications will feature heavily in 2012. Described as a "disruptive force with the potential for long-term impact in most industries", most of us are still working out how it fits with what we want to achieve – watch this space.

Gartner also singles out "mobile-centric applications and interfaces" – meaning the way users interact with us and our services is changing and the ubiquity of mobile options will continue to increase. If you can't cross-platform, you're behind the times. Other trends include context-aware computing and the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), a concept describing how the internet will expand as sensors and intelligence are added to items such as consumer devices. QR codes and RFID are just the beginning of ways in which objects and web-based applications will be linked.

Flinders' journal second circumnavigation

Mitchell Library Senior Curator (and recent Australia Day honouree) Paul Brunton recently joined the Queen Mary 2 for her maiden circumnavigation of Australia and Flinders' journal and logbook from his epic voyage around Australia on HMS *Investigator* from 1801-03 went along for the ride.

"Flinders would be gob-smacked to learn that his logbook and journal was to be part of a second circumnavigation of Australia," says Paul.