



The National Year of Reading is here!

Have you connected with the National Year of Reading 2012 yet? It's still not too late. The launch, February 14, is just the start of 11 months of fun and activities in libraries across Australia.

The year kicks off on Library Lovers Day. The National Library will be hosting the big launch event and the National Year of Reading patron William McInnes will be joining the ABC's Jennifer Byrne on stage to talk about the campaign and announce the winning titles in the Our Story project to identify eight books (one from each state and territory) for the National Year of Reading collection. Also on stage will be award winning children's author and magical storyteller Boori Monty Pryor, accompanied by a class of children from a local Canberra school.

There will be launches happening in every state and territory capital city, and at libraries and bookshops in hundreds of communities. There will be a day of reading fun in Adelaide's Rundle Mall; the Love2read outdoor café will be doing good business in the Arts Precinct in Perth; the State Library of NSW will be holding an evening reception, while the State Library of Queensland will start the day with a special breakfast for invited guests focused on its Dads Read campaign. The State Library of Victoria will be holding off until the weekend for its Mad Hatters Tea Party, a golden ticket event in one of its majestic rooms, usually closed to the public.

The National Year of Reading touring exhibition will be open at the Northern



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

Territory Library in Darwin in time for 14 February. The exhibition is built around the original artwork from Alison Lester's much-loved children's picture book *Are We There Yet?* From Darwin it will travel to every state and territory. Launching in time for Library and Information Week in the last week of May, and going through until August, there will be a push behind public library use and membership. Then, in the second half of the year, a highlight of the campaign will be The Reading Hour.

Similar in concept to Earth Hour, this will encourage families not only to join together for a simultaneous reading session around Australia, but also to continue the idea of reading together for an hour or so a week – whether that's 20 minutes three times a week or 10 minutes nearly every day. The Reading Hour event will be on Saturday 25th August, 2012.

Other features of the campaign are two special National Year of Reading editions of Good Reading Magazine, published in February and August 2012.

We are expecting some 2000 activities to take place in libraries and bookshops and through community groups during 2012. Many will be with the support of National Year of Reading partners. There is an impressive list of more than 100 organisations that are behind the National Year of Reading, including the ABC, Dymocks book stores, The Walt Disney Company, and, of course, ALIA.

Find out more on the website www.love2read.org.au.