

# THE READING HOUR IS BACK!



Love2Read is busy building up to this year's national Reading Hour celebration, building on the success of the inaugural event held last year as part of the National Year of Reading.

While highlighting the benefits of reading for everyone, The Reading Hour initiative raises awareness for parents and caregivers on just how easy it is to help children develop a life-long love of reading.

Spreading the message to "share a book with your child for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week and give them the gift of reading" is the aim for The Reading Hour and that's what Love2Read wants everyone to be doing from 5 pm to 6pm on Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup>.

This year hundreds of libraries, schools, bookstores and venues around the country will be hosting The Reading Hour events – celebrating reading at storytime sessions, by torchlight and even via singalongs.

Other libraries are using the campaign to help patrons test-drive ereaders and one library is harnessing the power of reading to reach out to the blokes in their area, calling on dads, granddads, uncles, carers and kids to share their tips on bringing stories alive when reading aloud.

Libraries everywhere can help promote The Reading Hour initiative – wherever there are parents to see or hear this message, we can be doing our bit. Love2Read's project director Cheryl Akle says the aim is simply to reach parents with the key message that it's easy and fun to read with your child, and it's important too.

"We know it's not always possible for parents to share a book at bedtime with their children, but if you can manage only 10 minutes a day, your child will have the best chance of becoming a good reader, along with all the social and educational benefits that brings," Cheryl says.

Although there's a specified time for Reading Hour on the day, events and activities for all age groups will be happening all day around the country, scheduled to accommodate the different time zones, sporting fixtures and venue opening times.

The full calendar of events is on the Love2Read website at [www.thereadinghour.org.au](http://www.thereadinghour.org.au).



Recently staff and family and friends from Richmond Tweed Regional Library (Lismore) took to the street for the annual Lismore Lantern Parade with their beautiful Love2Read lantern. Jo Carmody, Manager of the Richmond-Tweed Regional Library sent in this great picture and told us the team just had to add a bit more of a zing to their message, so many of them wore their Get Reading tshirts. The lantern parade is a fabulous community event with thousands of eager children and adults lining the streets to cheer on the lanterns – what a great way to spread the reading word!

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