Australian Reading Hour

This year, the Australian Library and Information Association's campaign encouraged Australians of all ages to read for one hour on Thursday 14 September 2017.

There was a huge week of events leading up to the 2017 Australian Reading Hour (ARH). Senator Linda Reynolds and Tony Burke MP launched the Parliamentary Friends of Australian Books and Writers at Parliament House on Tuesday evening, and Mem Fox and Matt Stanton launched ARH at Parliament House on Wednesday morning. We all then celebrated ARH together on Thursday.

The premise of ARH is simple – pick up a book at any time of the day or night and read for an hour. This year's campaign was bigger and better than ever, and it built on the success of the previous Australian Reading Hours. Run by ALIA's Australian Public Library Alliance in 2012–2016, the Australian Reading Hour in 2017 was supported by the Australian Library and Information Association, the Australian Society of Authors, the Australian Publishers Association, the Australian Booksellers Association, and the Copyright Agency.

Libraries were invited to choose their own local ambassador – whether a librarian, author, or councillor – to read with the public on the day. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Australian Reading Hour 2017, you have helped to make it the biggest one yet.

Here are some photos of this year's events that you shared with us.

ALIA would like to acknowledge the Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund for supporting this project.

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Matt Stanton reading at the launch of Australian Reading Hour 2017

From the launch of Australian Reading Hour 2017

ALIA House staff with their Australian Reading Hour books!

Australian Reading Hour in Gympie

Mem Fox reading at the launch of Australian Reading Hour 2017

Mem Fox signing an Australian Reading Hour tote bag