

National Year of Reading

PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS ONLINE SUPPLEMENT

—
Volume 18 No 2
August 2012



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NEW SOUTH WALES



National Year of Reading

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our special online supplement to the August 2012 issue of Public Library News. Libraries across NSW are busy celebrating the National Year of Reading and we wanted to share their great stories and photos.

Thank you to our wonderful contributors and to all public library staff involved in NYoR.

VICTORIA ANDERSON
Editor



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STATE LIBRARIAN DR ALEX BYRNE
AT NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS
STORYTIME AT THE STATE LIBRARY
OF NSW
(see story page 16)

National Year of Reading update

FRACTURED FAIRYTALES

Children from preschools and Infants schools visiting Narrabri Library this year will find it decorated as a magical fairytale land. By the end of the Fractured Fairytale promotion it is expected that almost 1000 children across Narrabri Shire will have been involved with this NYR project.

JENNY CAMPBELL
Narrabri Library

SEUSS MANIA

Mosman Library was struck down by a serious case of Seuss mania during the April school holidays, which saw kids from far and wide suffering mild to severe symptoms including laughing out loud, periods of creativity, imaginative outbursts and prolonged episodes of reading! What could possibly have brought on this terrible affliction you ask? Well let's just say The National Year of Reading 2012 may have had something to do with it.

Down in the children's library we've been thinking hard about what kind of events to run during the NYR that truly reflect our love of reading and books, and after many a brainstorm found we could not go past a celebration of Dr Seuss. He's everybody's favourite children's writer both young and old and I don't know of any reader who hasn't been touched by his wacky, fun and rhythmic books. *Oh the Places you'll Go*, *Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, to name just a few of our all time favourites. In fact we decided we loved Dr Seuss so much that we chose to dedicate a whole school holiday program to him. So over the two weeks we ran a series of activities based on Dr Seuss which of course tied in perfectly with the film release of *The Lorax*.

Craft workshops included a make your own *Cat in the Hat* hat, Thing 1 and Thing 2 hand puppets as well as finger puppets and pencil toppers for the tweens. Lots of Seussical fun was had and the kids got to take home their very own Seuss creations. Our cartooning workshop run by the amazing people at Cartoon Kingdom attracted over 30 children. Our young comedians were taught how to draw their own cartoons and make their very own funny cartoon strip.

The stand out event however was our Dr Seuss Cartoon Character drawing competition where we invited kids to draw their very own Dr Seuss character and give it a name. What fun! Over 100 entries were received which far exceeded



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- 01 THE QUEEN OF FAIRIES
- 02 THE CAT IN THE HAT

our expectations and made the job of picking a winner a tough one. All the entries were so clever and creative but in the end we settled on two winners, one for each age category. Local Mosman children Chris (age 6) and Phoebe (age 11) proudly accepted their prize packs which included books and *The Lorax* movie poster. Their winning entries were Stink-a-lot and Aquomo. Well done kids!

Seuss mania was one of our most successful school holiday programs ever but the program would not have been possible without the books themselves. So thank you Dr Seuss for your timeless classics that have ignited the reading bug in many a child and will continue to do so well into the future. It is a relief to see that the love of reading is alive and well amongst our youngsters which makes the job of children's librarian very rewarding indeed. Now back to cleaning up that large pile of books on the floor

ALYCIA BAILEY
Mosman Library

National Year of Reading update

WRITE HERE!

Lake Macquarie City Library's new author visit program, *Write Here!* aims to inspire, inform and entertain readers and budding writers throughout the NYR. Write Here! brings local published authors to our libraries to reveal their research, writing and publishing processes. Budding authors and lovers of a good read can gain insight into the creative and practical processes behind each book and the diverse writing experiences.

Jo Smith, Library Section Manager, said that the library is thrilled to host local published authors. *Each author featured in Write Here! has successfully crafted a very different idea to a published book. Their diverse stories are interesting and enjoyable insights into the world of writing for readers; and could also provide motivation and information for anyone with an ambition to write.*

Authors featured so far this year include: suspense writer, Jaye Ford, author of *Scared Yet?*; Michael Sala, author of the fictionalised biography, *The Last Thread*; romance writer Annie West, local historians, Dulcie Hartley and Paul Walsh, and contemporary women's fiction writer Christine Stinson. *Write Here!* is part of Lake Macquarie City Library and Newcastle Region Library's joint NYR program.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie Library

MIRROR

The launch of the *Mirror* exhibition marked the start of NYR at Newcastle Region Library. The exhibition showcased the unique collages from Jeannie Baker's latest award-winning children's picture book *Mirror* which was on display in Newcastle from November through to the end of January 2012. The exhibition is part of a national tour organised by Ann Haddon from Books Illustrated in Melbourne.

The three dimensional art works present a visual story that reveals the differences and similarities between the life of an Australian boy and a boy in a remote Berber village in Morocco. The story shows that the two cultures are alike in many ways.

Jeannie Baker was in Newcastle to launch the exhibition and hosted a workshop for teachers and students on the creation of *Mirror*. The book was recently honoured with the Children's Book Council of Australia *Picture Book of the Year Award 2011*.

We hosted 60 school workshops in five weeks, with 3000 students from throughout the Hunter Valley attending. The workshops, attracting students from Kinder to Year 12, included an overview of the exhibition, targeted viewing with worksheets and a craft activity. The Moroccan theme of the artworks also provided a backdrop for a creative mix of January holidays activities. There were belly dancing workshops, henna workshops, Moroccan inspired crafts and an exotic afternoon tea enjoyed by older girls and their mums. The details in the artworks brought amazement to all and a new appreciation of this well loved book.

CAROL EDMONDS
Newcastle Library

ILLUSTRATOR VISIT

As part of its NYR celebrations the Casino Library hosted two David Lovegrove illustration workshops on Tuesday 19 June 2012. The workshops were sponsored by the State Library of NSW. The first workshop involved the Casino Public School with 31 students from a Year 5/6 class listening to David's stories. In this workshop David demonstrated his comic and Manga skills while the students also got to practice their Manga drawing. The other workshop saw 12 lucky people including members of the writers' group observing how David drew his characters. David then went on to explain some digital art techniques, and passed on some wise words on getting work published.

GARY ELLEM
Richmond Upper Clarence Regional Library

BEGA VALLEY LOVES2READ

We have been celebrating the NYR with our innovative program, Bega Valley Loves2Read. The program includes author presentations, local indigenous artists, writing workshops, publishing talks and scrapbooking sessions. By making the library a fun and exciting place that appeals to all members of the community, the aim is to increase reading and improve literacy, and in turn have a positive effect on people's lives. The Bega Valley Loves2Read events are organised around the NYR monthly themes.

In January, the Summer Reading Program and a library bingo game for adults kicked off the year.



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- 01 HENNA HANDS
- 02 MORROCAN FEAST
- 03 ANTHONY HILL

In February, a magic show for children by local magician Zamboni was hugely entertaining, attracted a good attendance and, most importantly for the monthly theme, was a huge laugh! Zamboni modified his show to incorporate books, reading and a giant sized Bega Valley library card. Creative writing workshops for adults were delivered by local author Diana Harley in March, supporting the theme of Think. The workshops exceeded expectations and were a great introduction to creative writing, with participants learning a great deal in a short time. Diana was very positive and encouraging to all who attended.

April's theme of Feel lent itself perfectly to a visit by well-known author Anthony Hill. He enthralled audiences from local high schools and the general public with true stories about Australian soldiers and their experiences. The public talk sparked a lot of discussion on the effects of war on soldiers returning to Australia and how they adapted to normal life again. The high school students developed a more realistic understanding of war and the miserable conditions soldiers endured. They enjoyed hearing about the role of the animal heroes, and displayed a strong interest in Mr Hill's research and the process of writing a book. The talks were evidently a success as the school libraries were inundated the following day with students wanting to borrow Anthony Hill's books.

May was a busy month and plenty of activities were provided for people to Escape. Local literary agent, Mary Cunnane provided a presentation on the changing world of publishing. Her presentation, *Inside Publishing Today: Will the Book Survive?* included an overview of the publishing industry, the current state of publishing and tips on how to put together a book proposal. Mary imparted a huge amount of knowledge and there was lively discussion surrounding e-books, the role of self-publishing and the plight of book stores. Scrapbooking was another May event and the library teamed up with a local scrapbook store Scrapdeedoo! People were given the opportunity to start preserving their personal and family history in the form of a scrapbook, creating a story that can be enjoyed for years to come. Participants enjoyed reminiscing over memories and sharing family stories. Each person came away with a completed first page, the start of their story. Later that month Australian author Karly

Lane fascinated listeners with a talk that held their attention for almost an hour and a half. A range of topics were covered including her books, the writing process and her personal experiences of publishing. The audience were particularly interested to hear Karly speak about her journey as an author and readers of all genres expressed their enjoyment and the value of the talk.

Dream in June saw South Coast Aboriginal artist Loretta Parsley captivating audiences and providing insights into her artwork, Indigenous culture and the stories behind her works. The talk was included in the NYR program, in recognition of the different way stories can be told. A natural storyteller, Loretta held the audience's full attention and created positive connections with both the adults and Year 5/6 students who attended. Attendees enjoyed hearing Loretta's family stories and gained more understanding of traditional Koori culture and heritage.

The events to date have attracted many more people into the Bega Valley Shire Libraries, some of whom are not regular users. And there is much more to come in the second half of the year including a journalism talk, Children's Book Week, author visit by Dr Peter Stanley, a knitted garden project as well as History Week events. Bega Valley Library Service would like to thank the Country Arts Support Program for providing funding and making the program possible. The Country Arts Support Program is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW and jointly delivered by Regional Arts NSW and Regional Arts Boards throughout NSW. Our regional arts board is South East Arts.

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DONNA LAWRENCE
Bermagui Library

REVIEW IT

If you would like to try your hand at being an author, Blue Mountains City Library is offering all book readers the chance of 15 minutes of literary fame by writing a book review. During each month of 2012, the Blue Mountains City Library will be holding a Book Review Competition for library patrons. Mayor, Cr Daniel Myles, said, *The BM City Library Book Review Competition is an interesting and fun way to share your opinion of a book with others – whether you liked the book or not.*



FEBRUARY WINNER
KEL WATSON AND
LIBRARY STAFF MEMBER
NAOMI OLIVER

National Year of Reading update

- 01 LIBBY GLEESON
- 02 AMAZING READING CHAIN
- 03 THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR BOOK
- 04 FEBRUARY WINNERS, EMMA, MATTHEW, ALEXANDRA, PATRICK, ARCHIE, TILLY (FRONT) AND MOLLY

To enter the competition, entrants are required to write a book review of between 400 and 600 words. The book reviews must address a fiction or non-fiction book that fits into the NYR theme for the relevant month. Themes still to come are: August – Question, September – Grow, October – Explore, November – Cry, December – Love2Read. The winner for each month will win a prize pack, and will also have the opportunity to read their winning entry on the library podcast, *Listeners in the Mist*. The competition is free of charge and open to current patrons of the Blue Mountains Library who are over 16 years of age. Entries must be the original work of the entrant. Patrons may enter the competition multiple times per month. Entries are due by the last Friday of each month.

Previous book reviews are now featured on the *Readers in the Mist* blog at *Listeners in the Mist* www.listenersinthemist.podbean.com/

LIBBY GLEESON

The NYR has been wonderfully busy at City of Canterbury libraries, including a fantastic visit by multi-award winning author Libby Gleeson. What a star! Libby agreed to lead two workshops; one for students discussing the writing process and the other for parents talking about the importance of reading. 120 stage three students were lucky enough to be present and listened rapt for an hour. Libby very generously answered question after question and genuinely inspired the students to read and write more. Reservations on Libby's new book *Red* have gone through the roof!

That afternoon Libby addressed 54 parents, giving her perspective on NYR and explained why it was so important to encourage children to read widely and well. We are very grateful to the State Library of NSW, PLNSW, MPLA, and of course, Libby Gleeson, for the opportunity to present these workshops. Roll on the rest of the National Year of Reading!

CHERYL DODSON
Canterbury Library

AMAZING PAPER CHAIN

Inspiring children to read more this year is one of Central West Libraries' goals for the NYR. In the children's section a length of coloured paper chain is growing daily. Each link has a child's name and the title of the book they have borrowed and read.

Orange City Library Children's Librarian Lisa Martin is thrilled with the 556 links in the paper chain so far. She hopes there will be thousands by the end of the National Year of Reading 2012. *Anyone can add a link for every book that is read. If you read to your baby, fill in a link every time you read a book. We understand children like books read more than once so fill in a link every time,* explains Lisa.

Monthly prize draws are a feature of the Amazing Paper Chain with book vouchers, bookmarks and free reservation cards to be won. Lisa said so many of the randomly selected winners were weekly visitors to the library and it was great to see their reading efforts rewarded at the first prize draw in February. At the end of the year Orange City Library will host a competition to guess how many links are in the chain.

JASMINE VIDLER
Central West Libraries

CAUGHT READING

For the month of June we gave the Griffith community the opportunity to enter our Caught Reading photographic competition. The competition is part of our NYR program which consists of at least one special event per month. People were encouraged to take a photo related to reading and submit the photos on line. The photos could be taken indoors or outdoors, reading a magazine, iPad, newspaper etc with the main aim to inspire some fun and creativity as well as promoting our online facilities. All the photographs go on display in the library with some featuring on our website, blog and facebook pages ... and of course the winners received a fantastic prize gratefully donated by our local Camera House.

MONICA DISSEGNA
Griffith City Library

PAINT BANKSTOWN REaD

The development of pre- and early literacy skills is vital for educational attainment in later life. In Bankstown, with its culturally diverse population, where parents and children may have had interrupted schooling, it is especially important to help the community develop literacy skills and practices. The library is working with community partners in developing Paint Bankstown REaD – an early literacy initiative which seeks to embed



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good practices in the community. This is also an initiative during NYR and helps extend the reach of the library into the community and children's groups within the area. Many of you will be familiar with the Paint it REaD concept, started in the NSW town of Parkes by school principal, Rhonda Braine. Concerned about the academic achievements at her school, she realised that regardless of how much effort she and her teachers put into their pupils, literacy practices need to start from a much earlier age. She also knew that the whole community needed to be involved to make early literacy the norm. So, she got the whole community of Parkes involved in reading to children – anywhere, any time.

Paint it REaD has spread around New South Wales, including Auburn, Penrith, the Blue Mountains and Holroyd. Now it is our turn. Bankstown City Council and Bankstown Community Resource Group (BCRG) have joined together to help coordinate early literacy activities. These two groups have worked together previously in developing the book *Bongo's Big Day Out*. This invaluable resource features a monkey called Bongo at various local sites including the library, the railway station, the local pool and the park. Bongo has become the mascot for Paint Bankstown REaD representing early literacy in the area. BCRG have commissioned a Bongo costume that will be available for groups (such as play groups or at the immunisation clinic) to borrow to reinforce the image of Bongo at literacy events.

The first event under the Paint Bankstown REaD banner coincided with National Simultaneous Storytime. Future plans include developing links through the community, with local business, interest groups and schools, and a Reading Day to coincide with Children's Week in October. The Library will have a reading tent at the NAIDOC event in Paul Keating Park and a Reading Hour activity at each location on 25 August as part of the NYR program.

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library

WILLOUGHBY

The National Year of Reading 2012 has provided Willoughby City Library Services with many opportunities to not only promote the new library, but to also promote the goals of NYR. Willoughby seeks to implement strategies to improve literacy, to publicise the roles of Australian libraries in the



STREET BANNERS
IN CHATSWOOD

community and to provide opportunities for life long learning. Since the NYR campaign was launched in Willoughby by the Mayor, Cr Pat Reilly, on Tuesday 14 February, Willoughby City Library Services has presented new activities and formats to involve the community in the library and to foster reading and literacy throughout the Year.

Throughout 2012, our displays, publicity and events will emphasise that Willoughby libraries and community learning facilities celebrate and support NYR and its goals. The NYR logo is on each display shelf throughout the collection and on all publicity, and appears on staff email signatures. Staff wear specially designed NYR badges at service desks and at events and activities.

In the week leading up to the launch we took up the opportunity to install NYR street flags down the main street of Chatswood. Eight street flags lined Victoria Avenue highlighting the celebration of reading in the retail centre of Chatswood and the wider community. Our opening function was an interactive panel discussion between three authors: Juanita Phillips, Michael Robotham and Anna Fienberg. The panel discussed their tastes in books and their own reading, the influence that books and reading has had on them and also the future of the book. Lindfield Bookshop owner, Scott Whitmont, moderated the discussion. The 58 people who attended enjoyed the discussion immensely.

National Year of Reading update



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- 02 THE GRUFFALO

A *Romance Writing Workshop* with published authors, Annie West and Cathleen Ross, followed. They gave participants advice on romance essentials, romance categories and getting your story started. The workshop was attended by an enthusiastic and focused group of 18 (numbers were limited). Expressions of interest from those who missed out on the Workshop and feedback from attendees convinced us to hold another class later this year and to venture into other special interest workshops and master classes, enhancing community learning in our libraries.

Following the launch, a *Make-a-Book Children's Craft Activity* was held in the afternoon for children aged 5–12 who enjoyed making their own illustrated story books. This after-school activity was popular with a range of ages and 44 children attended.

During the months since February, special programs for NYR have included: *Meet the Gruffalo at Storytime* with a visit from a live Gruffalo, an e-book demonstration at Chatswood and another at Artarmon Library and two *Cryptic Crosswords*

Workshops. In April the Home Library Service began sending Home Library Service customers wrapped *Mystery Picks* of books to read and comment on, if they wished. The books are those selected for the NYR Our Story competition, judged by readers to most capture the essence of each state of Australia. An interesting program held in March and April was *Chinese Books Online Selections* which allowed Chinese reading members to vote for their favourite books and AV items from a list of more than 600 titles using our Chinese/English bilingual catalogue, iBIMS.

The library's Talks@Willoughby program aims to promote reading and provide information, featuring authors and subject experts. During 2012, the goals of NYR are mentioned when each speaker is being introduced. Nine talks have already been held: Seven authors including Andrew Tink, Arwa El Masri and Indira Naidoo, have introduced their latest books, a solicitor spoke about changes in Immigration Law effective and an award winning Japanese chef demonstrated the ceremonial tradition of Japanese cuisine and introduced his book on the subject. Northbridge Library hosted its first ever Talks@Willoughby when best selling author, Joanne Fedler, introduced her latest novel, *The Reunion*.

Many more events and programs are planned for NYR. Here are a few:

At the *Reading Hour* on Saturday 25 August, Chatswood Library will host a reading of the poems of Francis Webb.

For the children, the *Are We There Yet?* competition will run from Thursday 16 August in all Willoughby Libraries. West Chatswood Library will host popular children's author Deborah Abela on Tuesday 11 September with attendance by students from Mowbray Public School.

On Saturday 15 September Willoughby's StreetFair will bring the whole Willoughby community together. The library will be participating in the Parade, providing a children's Storytime, children's craft sessions and also offering a Local Studies Workshop in the library.

We are fortunate to have engaged high profile supporters, all of whom have special connections to the Willoughby area including The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Willoughby and Minister for Transport who introduced the NYR *Discover e-books @ Willoughby* on 26 June; media commentator and author Jane Caro who last year presented and discussed her book, *Just a Girl*, at the Teenage

Reading Group. The teenagers run the group themselves and now meet once a month to discuss what they are reading and find out about new authors/genres in a relaxed atmosphere; and author and social researcher Hugh Mackay who has agreed to assist with a NYR event later in the year. We are grateful to our supporters for help with the promotion of Willoughby libraries and the love of reading within our community during 2012.

Willoughby Library and Community Learning Services staff have received much positive feedback from the community about their new state-of-the-art library. They have told us how much they appreciate their splendid new library. There has been a growth of 52% compared with the same period last year. We are very proud of what we achieve and look forward to the following months of the National Year of Reading 2012.

ALISON DAVIDSON
Willoughby Library

SCRAPBOOK READING

The scrapbooking phenomenon has hit Blue Mountains City Library. Blue Mountains City Library is creating a scrapbook which they hope to add to a travelling exhibition of albums from other libraries across Australia. This travelling exhibition is an initiative of Inverell Shire Library, as a way of celebrating the NYR. Mayor, Cr Daniel Myles, said, *The Scrapbook album is a fun and meaningful way to be involved in the National Year of Reading 2012.* Blue Mountains City Library invited the community to contribute to this scrapbook album by expressing how much they love libraries, books and reading. Scrapbooking is a method for preserving personal and family history in the form of a scrapbook. A scrapbook typically combines journal entries with memorabilia such as photographs, printed media, and decorative artwork. A free scrapbooking workshop was held at Springwood Library in March where the library provided all the scrapbooking materials and tools for use in the workshop, as well as coffee, tea and biscuits. Participants were asked to bring five or more photos to use on their scrapbook pages. They were told the photos could be of themselves, their family, pets, friends, bookshelves, places they liked to read – and to be creative! The National Year of Reading Scrapbook project is one of many creative initiatives of Blue Mountains City Library.

VICKI EDMUNDS
Blue Mountains Library

FOR THE LOVE OF IT

A busy day was had by all on 14 February at Parramatta City Library. Staff worked like Trojans to deliver the National Year of Reading launch, a special storytime and the annual Library Lovers' Day celebration. The day started with the NYR launch at Parramatta Library. This was an outstanding success with 15 of the Library's ambassadors and some very attentive library monitors from Parramatta Public School attending along, with interested members of the public and media. The event ran very smoothly, thanks to the outstanding preparations of Library staff. Each of the Ambassadors was presented with an extremely large purple and green rosette shaped like the NYR flower emblem, which they were encouraged to wear to any NYR events they attend or anywhere else, of course! As seven of the Ambassadors are Parramatta City councillors, the rosettes may even get worn to some Council meetings throughout the year!

Special Ambassador Ursula Dubosarsky the acclaimed author, remarked at the Launch, *Let's hope that the National Year of Reading campaign will help remind us all that books and reading are things which should be enormously valued, and never taken for granted.* While Ambassador Sarah Davis, the CBCA shortlisted illustrator said, *Through books, you have the chance to live other lives, to learn from other people's experiences and have a larger existence.* Proud Ambassador Gai Marheine, from the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, spoke enthusiastically about the importance of the NYR. *I feel it is important to educate children about heritage and culture as it is part of their every day living, without them even realising it.* Our other Ambassadors include actor Gerard O'Dwyer, Yates Avenue Public School principal Tracey Lee and the Lord Mayor Lorraine Wearne with the other nine councillors also happily joined the ambassadors' line-up to promote reading and books. Before the NYR launch, some ambassadors expressed their love of reading and books with posts on the Parra Reads blog site <<http://parrareads.parracity.nsw.gov.au/blog/2012/02/13/national-year-of-reading-ambassadors/>>

All the ambassadors will join various NYR programs and events throughout the year, in different branches.



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- 05 CHARLESTOWN SQUARE

National Year of Reading update

As part of the NYR program the library launched *BookCrossing*, a free world-wide initiative where books are registered with a number at participating libraries and released into the world for anyone to find. To take part participants donate their book to the library or release the book themselves. Books are labelled with a unique number before their release to ensure they can be tracked and to enable users to connect with other readers. The Ambassadors each released a book with Parramatta Lord Mayor Cr Lorraine Wearne sending off her favourite book *The Kraken Wakes* by John Wyndham.

The special storytime was indeed special, with the kids sitting enthralled while Ursula and Sarah Davis read their books. Many staff, and the Lord Mayor, took advantage of the option to purchase signed copies of Ursula and Sarah's books. The Library Lovers Concert was a lovely affair with Gerard O'Dwyer, award winning actor from *My Brother* (judged best film at the 2011 Tropfest Awards) and our own NYR ambassador, reciting poetry (down on one knee, at one stage) and local musicians serenading us all with beautiful music.

Library Manager Debbie Best was delighted with the launch. *It was a great promotion of the excellent work we do and the innovative programs we are planning for the National Year of Reading – a real credit to everyone who helped organise and/or participated in it. We have a great team and we really showed this in the way we all worked together to present the Library at its best for our Ambassadors, councillors and the public.*

We will be celebrating NYR with a splash across all six branch Libraries. Logos and banners are all over the place to raise awareness; themed reading lists have been made into flyers for customers to take home; and *What are you reading* postcards have been designed and inserted into display books for readers to leave their comments and pass on to the next reader. A big brash banner promoting NYR has been set up outside Parramatta City Town Hall in the Church Street Mall where the thousands of people passing by each day will be reminded of the joy of reading.

To raise NYR awareness for our ESL patrons and new arrivals and to encourage participation, the library developed a series of workshops to target

parents with little or no knowledge of the Australian education system and learning development. The three session parenting workshop was organised with the help of Olivia Holland, from Castle Hill Literacy Circle and focused on explaining literacy issues to parents. Workshop topics included library e-resources for children, improving reading and writing and general literacy skills. All sessions were well received by the attendees. Some parents had to bring their children along to the workshop, so we set up a kids' table with craft and colouring to entertain them. Some even participated in question time.

Author talks are a regular event at Parramatta Library, and in February the talk tied in with the themes of the Parents' workshop. Lynn Jenkins, a registered clinical psychologist was speaking about her first book *Best start: Understanding your baby's emotional needs to create the best beginnings*, a book for new parents. More than 20 parents attended with seven prams – a lot of fun and very effective.

In March we held a joint program with Burnside Uniting Care consisting of six workshops for fathers focusing on reading, writing, literacy and maths. The library contributes e-reading resources for the workshop.

Our book clubs have been running successfully for three years at Parramatta, and now with the NYR we are encouraging people with low English reading skills to participate too. A new monthly reading group began in February, focusing on people with intermediate reading skills, who will read journal articles throughout the year matching the #NYR12 reading themes. Library staff will provide reading guidance at every meeting.

The library has set up a new category on Parra Reads (Parramatta City Library Readers' Advisory blog) <<http://parrareads.parracity.nsw.gov.au/>> and an online reading group. We will be putting up posts all year on reading relating to the NYR themes. The library also tweets <<https://twitter.com/#!/parralibrary>> any relevant activities regularly, and a new Facebook <www.facebook.com/ParraLibrary> site for youth has also been set up. All social network sites are interlinked which makes it easier for people to get connected.

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ANNE POOLE
Parramatta Library

HUNTER HAPPENINGS

To celebrate the NYR, Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Libraries are partnering to bring the region's residents an exciting program of reading-related and story-telling events and activities. Celebrations kicked off at a launch in Centre Court, Charlestown Square shopping centre on Friday 17 March with information stands, stories in the Big Fish story tent and a display of historic photographs. Of course, the area was festooned with NYR banners, posters, and handouts. Roving entertainment from brilliant young magician, Joel Howlett, and an appearance by Newcastle Region Library's children's character, Wacky Wombat helped spread the word and brought shoppers to Centre Court. Our local Ukestra, a ukulele orchestra, also attracted crowds with their bright and happy performance. The Ukastle Ukestra are on their way to audition for Australia's Got Talent – so they may soon be a household name! Hundreds of library bags filled with program information were distributed. This joint NYR program of fun and educational activities aims to promote a culture of reading across the two cities.

The program started with a photographic exhibition, *Our World Unseen*, and related workshops. The *Write Here!* series of discussions with local published authors reveals the diverse stories behind their writing successes, and kicked off with psychological thriller author Jaye Ford.

In March, acclaimed surfing writer Tim Baker gave a new perspective on wave riding as a way of life, Michael Sala spoke about his novel *The Last Thread* and Wallsend Library hosted a group poetry slam. Other highlights were a presentation by the host of SBS's *Letters and Numbers* David Astle; a dinner with best-selling author Peter Fitzsimons and a talk by the joint writer of the famous *Underbelly* series, Andrew Rule. Events will continue until December with a series of book discussions by local authors; a visit from Thomas Keneally; a family history writing workshop presented by Hazel Edwards, High Tea with author and cook, Julie Goodwin and personal trainer and author Michelle Bridges. September is Kid's Comedy Festival month with Morris Gleitzman, artist and author Leigh Hobbs and writer and performer Richard Tulloch. Celebrations continue with *Ten Minutes a Day Baby Book Time's* fifth birthday picnic in the park.

CAROL EDMONDS
Newcastle Library
&
JULIE DUNN
Lake Macquarie Library



RANDWICK UPDATE

In February Randwick City Library Service launched Randwick Readers project, a fundraising, reading challenge for all ages. Partnering with the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF), the project aims to raise money for literacy initiatives in Australia's most marginalised communities. Participants pledge to read a number of books and for every five books read, Council will donate \$1 to the ALNF. Reading progress is tracked with Helping Hands stickers which are displayed on large hearts (see photo) on the wall at Bowen Library, Maroubra. There is also a sustainability aspect – for every five books read, readers receive a plant seedling from Council's nursery. Over 200 library patrons including children, young adults, seniors and members of the library's Home Library Service (the housebound, those in nursing homes, and in prison), have now signed up as Randwick Readers. As a group, they have pledged to read an overall total of several thousand books. One large heart is already filled with stickers and so far, it's our Junior readers who have pledged to read the highest number of books and they have returned the highest number of Reading Logs.

A range of other NYR activities have also been taking place. In March, coinciding with International Women's Day, Footpath Library founder Sarah Garnett gave a presentation about her organisation as part of our Extraordinary Women in the Community series. We were very lucky to have Footpath Library patron and NYR Ambassador Peter FitzSimons visit the library in April.

National Year of Reading update



PETER FITZSIMONS
AT RANDWICK

After entertaining an audience of over 100 people with an energetic, theatrical talk about *Mawson* and *Batavia*, he then chatted with fans and signed his books.

In honour of Randwick's first and only female Mayor, the Randwick branch library has been renamed the Margaret Martin Library and July saw the launch of a new series of author talks to celebrate our wonderful Australian Women Writers when Charlotte Wood spoke about her latest book *Love & Hunger: Thoughts on the Gift of Food*. The first action-packed half of NYR has whizzed by in a flash and we're looking forward to more exciting events during the second half of this great year!

PAULA GRANT
Randwick Library

SPELLING BEE

To celebrate the NYR The Hills Shire Library Service began a search for Spelling Bee Champions! The community embraced the idea with each session booking out well in advance. 20 eager participants in three categories competed to be Spelling Bee Champion. *Apparel* and *acoustics* were just two of the words that tested contestants in the 7 to 8 year old category. Children tested their spelling skills across a range of words categorised easy, medium

and difficult to spell and then competed in a final knock out round. Mayor of The Hills Shire, Councillor Greg Burnett was one of the judges on the evening and said that it was great to see the library service holding events that promote literacy for young people. *It's a fun but challenging way to try and spell new words and practice spelling words children already know*, Mayor Burnett said. *Spelling bees are all about poise, focus and a great grasp of the English language*. He congratulated the Library for hosting a range of events this year as part of NYR. *We can't underestimate the importance of children's reading skills to their success in work and school. Reading and writing are not only important skills for the way that we communicate, but reading can be a wonderful activity for children to tap into their imaginations and explore new worlds.*

We have also been running book review competitions via our Online Book Club blog at <<http://thehillsonlinebookclub.blogspot.com>> NYR prize packs were given away to lucky winners drawn from the list of reviewers. The first competition resulted in over 1500 hits on the blog and received great coverage in the local newspapers.

The Feast of Speakers program has been going full steam ahead and we've played host to Anthony Macris, *When Horse Became Saw: A family's Journey Through Autism*; Pat Farmer, *Pole to Pole*; Stephanie Dowrick, *Everyday Kindness* and Leah Giarratano, *Vodka Doesn't Freeze*. The feedback has been amazing and our customers love the variety of speakers. We have plans underway for many more to finish off a fantastic year of author talks.

Social media is quickly becoming one of the easiest ways we provide information to our customers about events, services, author information and more. Our Facebook page <<http://www.facebook.com/thehillsshirelibraryservice>> has become the place to go for up to date information along with our Twitter account <<http://www.twitter.com/HillsLibrary>> which has enabled us to interact with customers quickly and easily. Like our Facebook page and follow us on twitter!

ERICA COURT
The Hills Library

OUTDOOR READING

At Wollongong City Libraries we have been promoting the NYR as well as our library services by setting up Outdoor Reading Libraries. During the April school holidays, people of all ages were invited to enjoy the magic of reading by coming along to specially selected sites in the Wollongong local area. Items available included magazines, adult fiction and children's picture books that were no longer in circulation. Visitors were free to sit in the park and read from the collection or take something away with them. The public were encouraged to donate and swap books as well. All items were branded with NYR stickers. The sites were hosted by dedicated library volunteers, while staff were actively involved in the set up and pack up of the venue. The success of the Outdoor Reading Libraries has led to an increased awareness of our Wollongong City Libraries' services and resources. There will be more during the October school holidays as the spring weather will hopefully deliver a great opportunity for people to pop in to our pop-up libraries.

CLARA WIEBERS
Thirroul Library

TOILET READING

Toilet doors are an often viewed but largely unused resource. The toilet door advertising idea came as a result of an NYR brainstorming session and its aim was to raise awareness of the Library's services and the NYR, for Council staff and customers. The Wollongong Council Administration Building has 12 floors with 57 toilets, providing an ideal opportunity for the Library to make an impact. Clear perspex A4 frames were attached to the inside of the toilet doors at a height which can be easily read whilst the occupant is seated. Posters are changed once a month to provide variety. The campaign has been up and running now for three months and has received lots of favourable comments – many people asking when the next set will be appearing. Initially the advertising has been to promote the Library collection but it is anticipated that future posters will promote resources, services, NYR events and facilities.

LEE BURGOYNE
Wollongong Library



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PETER CORRIS @ HAWKESBURY

Hawkesbury Library Service recently presented Peter Corris on Crime to an eager audience. This daytime event was held as part of the National Year of Reading celebrations and was a great opportunity to meet one of the country's notable crime authors. Peter spoke about one of his latest books, *Mad dog: William Cyril Moxley and the Moorebank killings*. He gave an account of the double murder which took place at Moorebank during the Depression, as well as the historical research that went into compiling the book. This historic case is notable as the victims were Hawkesbury resident Dorothy Denzel and her boyfriend, Frank Wilkinson. For the offence William Moxley was hanged in Sydney in 1932, the fifth last execution in NSW. He also mentioned his long running detective series featuring Private Investigator, Cliff Hardy, and keenly responded to audience questions. Although concentrating on crime, Peter has also written a number of books in different genres as well as non-fiction, a biography on Fred Hollows and a social history of prize fighting in Australia.

MICHELLE NICHOLS
Hawkesbury Library

01 OUTSIDE READING
LIBRARY
02 PETER CORRIS
AT HAWKESBURY



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PUZZLE PROFESSIONAL

We opened our minds to the wonders of wordplay and learnt the secrets of cryptic crossword clues when self-described word nerd, David Astle visited Lake Macquarie Library. David, the Dictionary Guy on SBS's show *Letters and Numbers*, has 25 years experience compiling cryptic crosswords, and is the author of five very different books. Lake Macquarie City Library Section Manager, Jo Smith, said David's talk was an opportunity for both puzzle fans and novices to meet a puzzle master. *People new to puzzles and crosswords learnt how to think outside the square to unravel a cryptic clue. David shared his passion or words, took an entertaining look into word puzzles, and gave tips on how to decipher clues.* David's sessions were included as part of Lake Macquarie City Library's joint National Year of Reading program with Newcastle City Library and as part of our Seniors Program, as puzzles are a great way to stay mentally sharp. The Seniors Program is a joint initiative between the Library and Council's Community Services section to promote healthy ageing.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie Library

UNDERBELLY

Readers heard the stories behind many of Australia's most notorious crimes with investigative journalist and author Andrew Rule at Toronto Library in June. Many of the country's crime stories have been broken or covered by Andrew and he has written, edited or published many true crime books, including the *Chopper* series that inspired the feature film. He collaborated with John 'Sly of the Underworld' Silvester to write the best-selling *Underbelly* series of books on which the popular *Underbelly* television drama on Melbourne's gangland war was based. Andrew's talk proved popular, with avid true-crime readers enjoying the opportunity to go behind the scenes of Andrew's books and an insight into the world of crime writing. Andrew's sessions were presented by Lake Macquarie City as part of our joint National Year of Reading program with Newcastle City Library.

RACHEL MALLABY
Lake Macquarie Library

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National Simultaneous Storytime 2012

BANKSTOWN

Hooley dooley what fun we had on Wednesday 23 May! Bankstown Library combined a Paint Bankstown REaD storytime with National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) and had stories, dancing and craft for around 70 children and their carers at the new Bankstown Arts Centre. The event was co-hosted by the Bankstown Community Resource Group, and the Community Development team from Council provided invaluable help in the planning and running of the morning. The fun started at 10am with story corners for different age groups. Library staff and volunteers (students from the University of Western Sydney) read stories before a bush dancing session. Everyone got to their feet and danced, following the expert direction of the library's bush-dancing staff! As well as being a lot of fun, bush dancing has been incorporated into library storytime as an important development opportunity, including word recognition and repetition, social development as the children partner each other, and physical co-ordination. The Mayor of Bankstown arrived to find everyone hot, flushed and laughing, and ready to sit down to hear him read. It is very valuable to have a community leader such as the Mayor read to children – sends a powerful message of the importance of literacy and male involvement in child development. A Reader's Theatre presentation of *The Very Cranky Bear* was then performed by library staff which involved dressing up and a lot of fun for all. This was followed by a memory game for the children. We finished at 12pm with craft activities and small gifts for the children. A very good morning of literacy, socialising for the parents, craft and physical activities!

ROBYN OWENS
Bankstown Library

CANTERBURY

Never loathe to dress up and be at the centre of things, the children's team and other City of Canterbury Library draft-ees celebrated NSS in style. The original idea was to prepare one simple prop per character to help the children imagine, but as is the way with such things, finding and preparing each piece was so much fun that we soon had entire costumes ... after a fashion. On the morning of the performance we had a hurried dress rehearsal,

much to the amusement of the crowd waiting outside to get into the library. Appetites whetted, our customers filed in ready to be entertained. Our lion was suitably lion-ey and our bear could scarcely be more cranky. Following the performance we were lucky to be able to present spirited retellings in Chinese and Arabic. By the end of our second session we had hosted around 70 families. How to evaluate success? While the crowd didn't shout encore in approved fashion, we had many requests to do it again next week. And that was enough for this library staff member!

CHERYL DODSON
Canterbury Library

GOULBURN

Fifty children, with their parents and carers gathered at the Goulburn Library to hear the tale of *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland, as part of NSS. Students from the local Trinity Catholic College drama class, who had also made all their own costumes, came along to perform for the excited audience. The performance was followed by a morning tea of teddy biscuits and juice.

SYLVIA BROOK
Goulburn Library

GRENFELL

Twenty five children from the Grenfell preschool visited the library for NSS. Firstly they listened to the story, supplying the sound effects when appropriate. Then they were divided into two groups and sang the *Where is Bear?* song (thank you, ALIA resource page!) several times, taking turns at being the bears snoring noisily and waking up. And then they acted out the story as I re-read it, wearing moose, zebra, sheep and lion masks, and with one of the teachers acting the part of the very cranky bear. Her appearance with moose horns and crepe paper stripes and mane was a big hit! The children seemed to enjoy the morning very much and a number of photos from the visit were published in the local newspaper and preschool newsletter.

ANNE GAULT
Grenfell Library



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01 *WHERE IS BEAR?*
AT GRENFELL

02 *WHERE IS BEAR?*
AT GOULBURN

National Simultaneous Storytime 2012

- 01 SOPHIE MASON
AT GUYRA
- 02 A CRANKY
KIAMA BEAR



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GUYRA

Approximately 50 children attended NSS at Guyra Shire Library. Bear tracks led up the path and into the library where *The Very Cranky Bear* and other bear stories were read by author Sophie Masson, who brought along two carved bears from Russia to show the children. She also read a Russian folk tale titled *Masha and the bears* which she is adapting for a picture book.

BRONWYN CLARK DODSON
Guyra Library

KIAMA

Kiama Library was ready for *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland. Children were encouraged to bring in their favourite teddy bear or toy. Picnic mats and cushions were set up for a pretend teddy bear's picnic. We started off by reading *The Beginner's guide to Teddy Bears* by Gillian Shields and Sebastien Braun. The song, *Rock-a-bye your bear* was a big hit among the children and parents as they twirled around their teddy bears. *The Very Cranky Bear* was given great applause. The kids loved to roar! We made sure that everyone in the Library knew that there was a Very Cranky Bear in the building! The children had a ball making the very cranky bear paper dolls and as a reward, they received the mask to go



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/03

with them. We look forward to next year's National Simultaneous Storytime. We hope the featured book will be *One Funky Monkey* by Stacey McCleary and Sue deGennaro (we would love to act that one out!)

ALISON BAMBACH
Kiama Library

MARRICKVILLE

Noted author, North Sydney historian, and Marrickville local, Ian Hoskins, was the guest reader at Marrickville Library's NSS event of *The Very Cranky Bear*. Forty children attended, and the story featured on the front page of one of Marrickville's local newspapers, *Cook River Valley Times*. The Stanmore, St Peters/Sydenham and Dulwich Hill branches all invited their local childcare centres to also come along for a story. The storytimes were followed by a craft activity.

TANYA HO
Marrickville Library

PARRAMATTA

At Dundas Library we read *The Very Cranky Bear* and two more beary books recommended by ALIA, *The Very Itchy Bear* and *Bear & Chook by the Sea*.

Staff members took turns to read the books, and we followed up with colourful bear craftwork. The playgroup from Telopea SaCCs joined in for this event along with our regular Wednesday storytime group. In all we had 48 kids and parents who joined us for this special reading day.

AMBAR BANERJI
Parramatta Library

PORT STEPHENS

Children and their mums and dads had the privilege of listening to *The Very Cranky Bear* read by Steve Bernasconi, Port Stephens' Community and Recreation Section Manager, for NSS. Steve did a superb job. He created a wonderful atmosphere with voices for each of the animals in the story. After the story the group went on a wonderful bear hunt with everyone singing and dancing whilst off on an exciting journey. The morning was topped off for the group with an excellent craft activity – a bear mask. The children and adults all had such fun and look forward to next year's adventure!

NADA VOORBY
Port Stephens Library



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03 STEVE THE BEAR
AT PORT STEPHENS
04 PORT STEPHENS



/01

QUEANBEYAN

Queanbeyan City Library joined libraries and schools across the country for the annual NSS event. This year's book, *The Very Cranky Bear* saw me bearing my cranky pants, dressing up with furry ears and a little black nose. The story was well received by the 60 children and parents at the library and after listening to the story, everyone watched a short film and made their own cranky bear headbands to wear home.

EMMA CIECHAN
Queanbeyan Library

WOOLLAHRA

NSS was celebrated for an entire week, during regular scheduled storytime sessions at our three libraries at Double Bay, Watsons Bay and Paddington. Featured picture book Nick Bland's *The Very Cranky Bear* was well received, as was the accompanying craft, creating bear masks. Local author and poet Libby Hathorn, an ambassador for National Year of Reading, was our special guest presenter at Double Bay, and our Children's Officer shared the story with children at Woollahra Preschool.

PAT MOORE
Woollahra Library

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The roar of the cranky bear echoed through the Mitchell Library and was closely followed by giggles and chatter as 100 kindergarten students enjoyed National Simultaneous Storytime on 23 June. Kindergarten students from Bourke St Public School and Petersham Public School ventured out on their first excursion (and some on their first bus trip) to enjoy National Simultaneous Storytime at the State Library of NSW. As a tribute to Maurice Sendak, The State Librarian Dr Alex Byrne also read *Where the Wild Things Are* and even provided a few wild things for the crowd of enthusiastic participants. Sustained by great stories and delicious cupcakes the young visitors set off to explore the marvelous Mitchell Library, gathering memories to share with their families and friends.

PAULINE FITZGERALD
State Library of NSW



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01 A NOT SO
CRANKY BEAR
AT QUEANBEYAN

02 LIBBY HATHORN
AT DOUBLE BAY



STATE LIBRARIAN
DR ALEX BYRNE
AT NATIONAL
SIMULTANEOUS
STORYTIME AT THE
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