



LIBRARIES CELEBRATE

Library & Information Week 2015

It has been another wonderful Library and Information Week, and it lived up to the theme 'Imagine.' The week, running from 25–31 May, has been an important advocacy opportunity to ensure that libraries are seen as vital, not only to the knowledge base of our communities, but also to the economic, social and environmental development of Australia. Let's take a look at how the week was celebrated.

MONDAY 25/5

AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE LIBRARY BOOKS

The release of survey results of Australia's favourite library books started the week off with a lot of media interest. Last year for Library and Information Week (LIW), ALIA revealed Australia's favourite library – Sandringham in Victoria. This year the Association turned its attention to library users' favourite reads.

A survey of public libraries from February to April 2015 generated responses from more than 150 library services across the nation – 10% of the 1,500 public library service points. Thrillers, crime, humour, fantasy, science fiction, cookery, biography and contemporary literature were all featured in the lists of Australia's most borrowed library books for the first quarter of 2015. ALIA found that the number one most borrowed book was Lee Child's *Never Go Back*, the latest in the fast-paced Jack Reacher franchise.

Libraries were asked to provide their top five most borrowed books in four categories: adult fiction, adult non-fiction, children's and young adult. Sue McKerracher, ALIA's CEO, said: 'The top title in adult non-fiction was *Jamie's 15 Minute Meals* by Jamie Oliver; the top children's title was the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, and the *Hunger Games* series was first for young adult writing. Australian authors held their own despite strong international contenders in the first three categories, while American writers dominated young adult fiction. The findings covered both print and ebooks, although ebooks still represented less than 5% of loans,' Sue said.

This survey was an opportunity to share some important and impressive statistics around the number of public library service points and circulation figures for Australian libraries.

TUESDAY 26/5

NATIONAL LIBRARY TECHNICIANS' DAY

This day provides the opportunity for library technicians to promote ALIA and the profession, and to celebrate the many achievements, including their frequent vital role as the first point of contact with the public.

Library Technicians are an essential part of the library team and we celebrate your excellent contributions to the sector.

WEDNESDAY 27/5

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

More than half a million children at around 3,000 locations across Australia enjoyed author Aaron Blabey's *The Brothers Quibble* during National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS). The book, published by Penguin Random House Australia, is an amusing, rhyming picture book about how an older brother reacts to the arrival of a brand new baby brother.



Director-General of the National Library of Australia Anne-Maree Schwirtlich. IMAG_NE is a unique, large-scale installation by Australian artist Emma Anna.

One of the special events featured Aaron Blabey, plus representatives of the AFL North Melbourne team and its mascot who visited the Royal Children's Hospital to entertain the patients. Other celebrity readers included Christopher Pyne, Federal Education Minister; Bill Shorten, Leader of the Opposition; Catherine Andrews, wife of the Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, children's entertainer Peter Combe, Sunrise weather presenter Edwina Bartholomew and appearance by representatives of National Rugby League teams at libraries across the Sydney metropolitan area.

For more coverage, please see page 27.

Sue McKerracher, ALIA's Chief Executive Officer, said: 'The book featured a story of sibling rivalry and love that will be familiar to children and parents alike. Libraries, schools, families and storytelling circles had a lot of fun with this book and children responded to the illustrations of the boys and their adventures. After all, NSS is all about encouraging a passion for books and the powerful art of storytelling.'

NSS, now its 15th year, aims to promote children's literacy and turn children into lifelong readers by inspiring them with stories. NSS also promotes the important role libraries play in promoting literacy in communities around Australia.

ALIA again partnered with SBS to bring National Simultaneous Storytime to more Australians than ever before, creating audio book versions of *The Brothers Quibble* in 17 different languages. One of the languages this year was Woiwurrung, an Indigenous language of the Wurundjeri People from the Kulin Nation of Central Victoria.

Libraries also used the resources produced by Storybox Library, such as a video of the author reading his book. We will have a picture gallery of *The Brothers Quibble* fun in the next issue of *INCITE*.

THURSDAY 28/5 LIBRARIES SUPPORT CANCER COUNCIL'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Of course it's an opportunity to try those great cupcakes, scones and slices while enjoying a morning cup of tea, but it's also a chance for Australian libraries to get together and raise money for a great cause. Libraries across the country held events to support this charity.

One in two Australians are diagnosed with cancer by age 85. By donating to this charity, libraries can make a real difference helping to fund Cancer Council's vital research, prevention and support service programs. The Cancer Council is the largest independent funder of cancer research in Australia. In 2014, research grants through Cancer Councils totalled more than \$65 million. The councils advocate for the rights of cancer patients for best treatment and supportive care, and provide information and support for anyone affected by cancer.

It's been a great LIW – a time to celebrate and reflect the library dividend. Libraries contribute to Australia's development, education, the arts, justice and health and well-being. Libraries continue to be a solid asset which makes a significant contribution over the long term.

AUSTRALIA'S MOST BORROWED

ADULT FICTION

1. *Never Go Back* by Lee Child (British/thriller)
2. *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion (Australian/humour)
3. *The Gods of Guilt* by Michael Connelly (American/crime)
4. *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent (Australian/contemporary literature)
5. *Eyrie* by Tim Winton (Australian/contemporary literature)
6. *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan (Australian/contemporary literature)
7. *Inferno* by Dan Brown (American/thriller)
8. *The Rook* by Daniel O'Malley (Australian/science fiction)
9. *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn (American/thriller)
10. *A Wanted Man* by Lee Child (British/thriller)

ADULT NON-FICTION

1. *Jamie's 15 Minute Meals* by Jamie Oliver (British/cookery)
2. *Guinness World Records 2014*
3. *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai (Pakistani/biography)
4. *I Quit Sugar* by Sarah Wilson (Australian/health)
5. *The Happiest Refugee* by Anh Do (Australian/biography)
6. *Save with Jamie* by Jamie Oliver (British/cookery)
7. *Father Bob the Larrikin Priest* by Sue Williams (Australian/biography)
8. *Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth (British/biography)
9. *Three Crooked Kings* by Matthew Condon (Australian/true crime)
10. *Jamie's 30 Minute Meals* by Jamie Oliver (British/cookery)

CHILDREN'S FICTION

1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series by Jeff Kinney (American/humour)
2. *13-Storey, 26 Storey and 39-Storey Treehouse* by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton (Australian/humour)
3. *Geronimo and Thea Stilton* series by Elisabetta Dami (Italian/adventure)
4. *Spot* series by Eric Hill (British/picture book)
5. *The Wrong Book* by Nick Bland (Australian/picture book)
6. *Just!* series by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton (Australian/humour)
7. *Once* by Morris Gleitzman (Australian/Holocaust)
8. *Peck Peck Peck* by Lucy Cousins (Australian/picture book)
9. *Selby* series by Duncan Ball (Australian/adventure)
10. *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne (Irish/Holocaust)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

1. *Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins (American/science fiction adventure)
2. *Divergent* series by Veronica Roth (American/science fiction adventure)
3. *The Fault in our Stars* by John Green (American/romance)
4. *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak (Australian/Holocaust)
5. *Looking for Alaska* by John Green (American/romance)
6. *Percy Jackson* series by Rick Riordan (American/fantasy adventure)
7. *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner (American/science fiction)
8. *Every Breath* by Ellie Marney (Australian/thriller)
9. *An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green (American/romance)
10. *Mortal Instruments* series by Cassandra Clare (American/fantasy adventure)