

LIBRARY *and* INFORMATION WEEK *Celebrated* IN ALIA'S 80TH YEAR

It was another successful and very active Library and Information Week (22 – 28 May). This year's theme was 'Celebrate!' to tie in with ALIA's 80th birthday celebrations. HEATHER WELLARD recaps the week-long celebration of the contributions of our libraries and librarians and how we promote library use and support.

MONDAY 22 MAY

We had a wonderful start to the week with two important announcements – our joint media release with Civica on the Most Borrowed Books and the shortlist for the Library Design Awards (read more about the awards on page 18).

The most borrowed books announcement this year featured the top ten list of Australian books borrowed; at number one was *Rain Music* by Di Morrissey, followed by *Spirits of the Ghan* by Judy Nunn and *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty. The lists prompted a lot of media coverage and led to discussions about the rising use of digital technology and its influence on reading habits.

TUESDAY 23 MAY

This day provided the opportunity for library technicians to promote ALIA, the profession and their role in libraries as well as celebrating their many achievements.

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY

More than 686 000 children in more than 6120 locations took part in National Simultaneous Storytime. This year the book was *The Cow Tripped Over the Moon*, written by Tony Wilson and illustrated by Laura Wood. It's a wonderful tale of friendship and the maxim 'When at first you don't succeed, try, try again.' It also pays homage to the instantly recognisable nursery rhyme. It was great to see lots of cows in the audience and the celebrity readers such as TV presenter, Lee Lin Chin, Lady Cosgrove and astrophysicist and Vice Chancellor ANU, Brian Schmidt.



Tony Wilson enjoys sharing his book and a cow with the audience.

THURSDAY 25 MAY

Libraries are part of the community and love to give back. They participated in a program to raise money for those affected by cancer. Donations help the Cancer Council's research, prevention and support service programs.

FRIDAY 26 MAY

ALIA Day was all about a Tweetup and a dress up. All across Twitter we saw librarians roll out their 1930s wardrobes, paying homage to the founders of our organisation. It was a fun day as pearls, hats and tweed were dusted off. Eighty years ago the inaugural gathering of the Australian Institute of Librarians took place outside the Albert Hall in Canberra on 21 August 1937. By joining the ALIA team, we become stronger together – enabling us to address issues otherwise faced alone. 🌟

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