

Celebrating

LIBRARY LOVERS' DAY 2018



Left to right: Graham Perrett, Professor John Hattie, Rebekha Sharkie, Joel Fitzgibbon, Carol Brown, Lisa Kennedy, Alison Lester, Aunty Joy Murphy, Susan Templeman, and Tim Watts

Every year ALIA celebrates Library Lovers' Day and 2018 was a huge success. Here is a glimpse of what libraries around Australia did to make the occasion.

Library Lovers' Day was held on 14 February 2018, with libraries all over Australia taking part in the celebrations. The hashtag (#libraryloversday) trended in second place on Twitter for most of the day and Graham Perrett MP announced his love for libraries to fellow MPs in the House of Representatives (see page 45 of Hansard bit.ly/2GhjtWt).

This year for Library Lovers' Day, ALIA created posters from love letters penned by various Australian authors. We had great engagement by the book industry, thanks to the help of the Australian Publishers Association (APA), with authors from various Australian publishing houses volunteering to take part. You can still find all the posters available to download on our website (alia.org.au/libraryloversday). We provided



these posters free of charge, and library staff were able to use them to decorate their library to celebrate the day.

Library Lovers' Day was launched with the help of the Parliamentary Friends of Australian Books and Writers during their event at Parliament House on 13 February 2018. Senator Linda Reynolds and Graham Perrett MP launched Library Lovers' Day with Mark

Dreyfus, Andrew Leigh and other politicians and book industry leaders in attendance. Many of these people took the opportunity to add their own love letter to the ever growing collection we have compiled.



Libraries also helped gather love letters by giving patrons the opportunity to write their own. These were hung on walls and alongside the posters to show the love for local libraries. They have also been sending these love letters in to us. With such a great response from everyone involved in writing a love letter to libraries, we have decided to combine the best letters we have received from authors, politicians, and the general public into a booklet that you will be able to order and receive in time for Library and Information Week 2018 (21–27 May). If you have any love letters to libraries to add to our collection, please send them to us via email (media@alia.org.au) or by post (PO Box 6335 Kingston ACT 2604).

One of the things that made Library Lovers' Day such a success in 2018 was the authors who contributed to the campaign. ALIA was able to obtain access to the authors thanks to their publishers and the APA. The CEO of the APA, Michael Gordon-Smith, had this to say about getting involved in Library Lovers' Day: 'We all love a library. We're delighted to have been able to work with ALIA to promote Library Lovers' Day, as we were for Australian Reading Hour. Publishers, authors, libraries and booksellers share the same passion



for helping people discover the joys of reading. It's something worth celebrating.' This is certainly a sentiment that was shared across the industry and is on display with so many Australian authors taking the time to express their love of libraries.

This year, in addition to the posters ALIA also provided a range of freely available resources to libraries to help them celebrate Library Lovers' Day. These included bookmarks; flyers; letterhead; sticker template; social media images; website banner; email signature; Library Lovers' Day logo; and a template for a media release to publicise the event locally, all of which are still available on our website (alia.org.au/libraryloversday).

ALIA would like to thank the Parliamentary Friends of Australian Books and Writers, Australian Publishers Association, Text Publishing, Harper Collins, Hachette, Pantera Press, Scholastic Australia, Simon & Schuster, all the authors who participated, everyone who wrote a love letter, and most importantly the ALIA Members who made the day such a resounding success. 

