

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

'It's never too late ... to learn to read' was a short story competition for unpublished, new, emerging and established Australian writers. The National Year of Reading 2012, in partnership with ALIA and Writing Australia, supported by the NT Writers Centre, Queensland Writers Centre and writingWA, was given a grant by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), to run the competition as part of Adult Learners' Week 2011 (ALW).

The aim was to create exciting, inspiring and challenging stories to support and encourage adult learning, and to highlight the fact that "it's never too late ... to learn to read".

Internationally, ALW celebrates the value and diversity of life-long learning. In Australia, the main focus of ALW has been to recognise achievements and raise awareness



National
Year of
Reading
2012

THE VISION

- Australia, a nation of readers
- A universal appreciation of the benefits of reading for pleasure
- A reading culture in every home

Barefoot Investor believes in books

Investment guru Scott Pape is an ambassador for the National Year of Reading. Dubbed Australia's favourite money man, Scott delivers understandable and achievable financial advice in plain speaking to an audience of around 12 million people via his television show and website (www.barefootinvestor.com). He's a great believer in getting to grips with our finances and in the power of literacy to transform lives - including his own.

"Throughout my entire school career, I can't remember reading anything meatier than a menu.

Yet that changed years ago when a wise bloke told me that in 20 years time I'd be the same person I am now "except for the books you read and the people you meet". I took him at his word. In the dozen or so years since school, I've read a book every couple of days (then again, I am making up for lost time).

I know that I'm a different person because of the books that I've read, but more importantly, I continue to broaden my awareness, understanding and knowledge of life a little each day. And that's why I'm proud to be an ambassador of National Year of Reading 2012."

-Scott Pape



of adult education and promote activities to encourage participation in further learning.

There were awards for published writers and for new, unpublished authors. And the winners are:

Winning stories from published writers

- Refuting the White Rabbit** by Maria Arena
- Letters and Lufstories** by Matt Blackwood
- Letters** by Sophie Constable
- The Beauline** by Jane Downing
- I is for You** by Tom Dullemond -
- Happy New Year** by Penny Gibson
- A Written History** by Amy Jackson-Shelling
- Camels in Morocco** by Melanie Joosten
- Roadhouse** by Jennifer Mills

WHAT'S OUR STORY?

With over 800 libraries (and counting) registered for the National Year of Reading 2012, excitement is building. The National Year of Reading will formally launch on February 14 next year right around Australia – and what better way to celebrate Library Lovers Day than get involved and kickstart your own year of reading?

But you don't need to wait. The National Year of Reading program is already underway with the Our Story project – a search for eight books that together paint a picture of the Australian people and the land we live in. This is your chance to vote for the book that will go forward to represent your state or territory and become part of the official National Year of Reading Collection.

You will find the books nominated for each state and territory on the website at www.love2read.org.au/our-story.cfm. Treat yourself to a good read and then vote for your choice – it's that simple.

The ABC has partnered the National Year of Reading for this project and voting is on their website at www.abc.net.au/arts/yearofreading/. Or you can drop into your local library or bookshop and fill in a voting slip. (Want to be in on the action in your library? There's still time to register to be part of it all at www.love2read.org.au/registration.cfm.) Voting closes on January 6, 2012 and the eight winning books will be announced at the National Year of Reading launch at the National Library of Australia on February 14th.

The National Year of Reading Collection will include books that tell the stories of the Indigenous people and capture the cultures and traditions of more recent arrivals, take the reader on a journey from the coast, through the great tracts of grazing land to the arid red centre and a book that someone in Broome can relate to as closely as someone in Adelaide.

You can comment on the books and check out the latest news on our Facebook page too. And you can also become involved in the National Year of Reading by joining the National Year of Reading Book Club at TheReadingRoom.com. Help other club members discover great Australian novels, discuss your favourite books and meet like-minded readers. What a great start to your summer holiday reading plans!

- Taking Leaves** by Tansy Rayner Roberts
- A Time for Many Words** by Ruth Starke
- The Miracle Calendar** by Philomena van Rijswijk

Winning stories from new, unpublished writers

- A Reason for Reading** by Kirralee Baldock
- When English Made My Future Better**
- The Sleeping Beauty** by Cassandra Dickerson
- For Lucy** by Karen Eastwood
- Grandad's Garden** by Kath Harper
- The War Gift** by Vanessa Jones
- My Neighbour's Screen Door** by Mark Joseph
- Strangers in Fiction** by Kerri Turner
- The Tin of Secrets** by Steve Wilson

Highly commended stories

- Written on My Heart** by Juliet Blair
- A Bridge Between Two Worlds** by Astrid Cooper -
- God Shopping** by Robert Hollingworth
- The Books** by Tania McCartney
- One Better Life** by Mike Murphy
- Rocky Road** by Jackie Tritt

All of these stories are available as free downloads from www.love2read.org.au/never-too-late.cfm. The stories are also available as podcasts to enable non-readers to enjoy them online from the National Year of Reading website.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Flexible training opportunities

Library Training Services
Australia offers the following nationally recognised courses by distance education:

- Certificate II in Library/ Information Services
- Certificate III in Library/ Information Service
- Certificate IV in Library/ Information Services
- Diploma of Library/ Information Services



Library Training
Services Australia

1300 17 15 60

www.ltsa.edu.au