

LIW & NSS 2012

ALIA in the community



At 11am on the 23 May 2012 over 380 000 children at more than 2400 locations joined together for National Simultaneous Storytime. This year's book was *The Very Cranky Bear* written by author Nick Bland and published by Scholastic Australia.

This year marked the 12th year of National Simultaneous Storytime which is held by ALIA as part of Library and Information Week celebrations each year. NSS 2012 proved to be the biggest and most successful storytime to date with over double the 2011 participants.

Highlights of this year's event included special guest readers Australian actor Angus Sampson at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, the book's author Nick Bland reading at an indigenous school in the Tiwi Islands and Minister for the Arts, Simon Crean at Parliament House Early Childhood Centre. We were also fortunate to be joined by many National Year of Reading Ambassadors at locations across Australia.

Media interest was huge this year with coverage on radio, metropolitan and regional newspapers and television.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for NSS 2012, to all the special guest readers and especially to the book's author Nick Bland and publisher, Scholastic Australia. We are looking forward to an even bigger and better National Simultaneous Storytime 2013!

Bungendore is a little artisan town just across the NSW border from Canberra. When Publishing Manager Kate van der Veer mentioned LIW to her childcare centre, they jumped on board and got the whole town involved! Monday saw the *Very Cranky Bear* exhibit go up at the Council building, with artwork from the children at Bungendore Kidzone. Tuesday was a visit to the local library where the children met the librarian and learned about the different parts of the library. Wednesday had three simultaneous readings for NSS in the three rooms at the centre: Kate read for the nursery where her daughter was forced to share storytime with other babies (she didn't like that much!). Thursday continued the bear and library related learning, and on Friday, everyone rested! Plans have already begun for next year.





THE VERY CRANKY BEAR

NICK BLAND



ALIA's National Office had a fantastic time this year putting on our own National Simultaneous Storytime event. We enjoyed a very spirited reading from Publishing Officer Hannah and Groups, Events, and Social Media Coordinator, Erin. After reading *The Very Cranky Bear* together, we all showed off our own cranky bear faces. For the staff members who are just too sweet to be Cranky Bears, we cut out the beautiful Cranky Bear masks. We had a wonderful day at National Office, and sincerely hope you did as well!

ALIA was delighted to have The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne join us for the first time for National Simultaneous Storytime this year. Australian actor Angus Sampson was the special guest reader for the very successful storytime event. Patients and local schoolchildren joined the storytime with their own copies of *The Very Cranky Bear*, generously donated by the book's publisher, Scholastic Australia. The hospital's Starlight team joined the fun leading some bear-themed songs and activities. RCH made sure that no one missed out on the festivities with the reading streamed live to the in-house TV station and Angus also visited patients on the ward who weren't able to participate in the group event. You can see the RCH festivities here www.youtube.com/user/ALIANationalOffice

Huge thanks go to Angus Sampson, Sam Mead, Juliet Smith and Shelley Farthing-Dawe at The Otto Empire (Production Company), and Sophie Woods, Daniel Stonehouse, Jaime Snyder and Tim Kentley at Crayon (Post Production) who worked free of charge to produce the video!



Angus Sampson and some Very Cranky Bears.