

Event Ideas and Inspiration








While you can choose **any** hour on **Thursday 9 March** as your own personal Reading Hour, there will be three hours during the day when you can be sure you'll be joining in with other readers across Australia - we'll feature morning, afternoon and bedtime Reading Hours.

Read on for some inspirational ideas or dream up your own unique event!

What sort of event should I run?



Your Australian Reading Hour event can take any format, or be focused on any theme that you like.



Here's a guide to help you plan and run your event:

-  - Easy events to plan and run
-   - Medium level of organisation to plan and run
-    - More organisation to plan and run
-  - Ideas that are good for schools and libraries

Easy events to plan and run

Event Ideas

Divide up into small groups. Choose a line from a book of your choice that marks the beginning of a dramatic or funny scene and write it out on a large piece of paper. From your imagination, write the next sentence, and pass it on to the next person to do the same, and the same for the person after that. Set a time limit for the game (e.g. 20 minutes), and when time is up, one person from each group is to read the short story aloud.  

Organise a multigenerational storytime at your school, local community hub, library or nursing home.  

Event Ideas

Organise a 'Listening Hour' and provide drinks and biscuits while people bring their own device to listen to an audio book of their choice in your space. 📖 🍏

Hold your regular book club meeting to coincide with Australian Reading Hour on **Thursday 9 March**. Consider choosing an Australian award-winning book as the discussion title, check out the [Australian Book Industry Awards website](#) for inspiration and winner's lists. 📖 🍏

Try a book Pot Luck! Suspend your regular book club discussion and invite each member to bring along a book they have enjoyed (something they have read recently or an old favourite). Give each person a few minutes to share with the group a brief summary of the book and why they'd recommend it as a worthwhile read.

Organising a book swap and sharing a Pot Luck lunch or dinner are a few optional extras. 📖

Read together – join your coworkers, your class, or your friends and family for a shared reading experience. Hang out in a park, take over the boardroom, read for a while and then share what you've read with each other:

- What were the funniest, scariest, most thought-provoking moments?
- Who would you cast in the movie adaptation?
- Who is the most memorable character, and why?
- Did it make you think differently about the world? 📖 🍏



Go for a walk with a friend, or on your own to [find a free Street Library](#) in your local area. Street Libraries are an invitation to share the joys of reading with your neighbours. People can simply take what interests them; when they are done, they can return the book to the Street Library network, or pass them on to friends. 📖

Read a new or favourite Australian kids book as a group, discuss the book's themes together and create a collaborative artwork display inspired by the story or characters that everyone can contribute to with crafting, drawing and more! 📖 🍏




Invite some [local authors](#) to nominate a book that has changed their lives, and make a display in your library space or bookshop window with a short quote from the author about why that book is important to them, also put their most recent title on display with their nominated book. 📖 🍏

Medium level of organisation to plan and run

Event Ideas





Organise a book lucky dip in the shop near the front counter of your shop in the week leading up to Australian Reading Hour. Seal books in paper bags or wrap in paper to obscure their covers and mark with adult fiction, adult nonfiction, kids, YA, picture book et cetera. Set a nominal price point – perhaps between \$15 – \$25 for the lucky dip and encourage your staff to handsell these surprise titles. Promote this initiative on social media in the lead up to create some excitement and ask people to share back what they are reading for Australian Reading Hour.  





Hold a grown-up bedtime story hour with wine and a great short story or essay reading in a wine bar, a bookshop, at home with some friends, or any space of your choice.  

Invite parents and carers for a book reading and morning tea celebration of Australian Hour. Organise some activities like bookmark making or writing a short poem or creating a piece of art in pairs inspired by the story you read together.   

More organisation to plan and run

Event Ideas

Organise a book-themed or literary event. It could be a panel discussion, a keynote talk, a workshop with an illustrator or author, or a book trivia night – the format and the theme is completely up to you! Browse the [Australia Reads Ambassador Directory](#) to get some guest speaker ideas for your event.    

Set up a 'Book Cafe' in the Library, the staff room, a classroom, a community hall or somewhere outside and have a menu of different books available for customers to choose from for a 15 minute 'book break'. If they like the book, they can borrow it to keep reading or choose another title from the menu. Optional to have healthy fruit, food and drinks provided, available for purchase or gold coin donation – involve your school tuckshop, or a local food business/caterer. If you are a school perhaps invite teachers, carers and parents to help as cafe wait staff!    

Invite a [guest author](#) to host or help solve an escape room. Transform any space into a mysterious escape room experience you'll never forget. Just download a ready to play game

Event Ideas

kit (we recommend [Lock, Paper, Scissors](#)), print the game, and play. It's easy to set up, customisable plus most importantly, a super fun and unique experience! 📖 📖 📖 🍏

More places to find reading and events ideas

Here's some links, resources and further information to help you run your own successful Australian Reading Hour event.

Many Australian Publishers have free teaching materials and resources for download on their websites for school aged readers plus notes and reading guides for book clubs. Browse Australian Publishers on the [Books from Australia](#) website.

Looking for more school-aged reading inspiration? Check out the Australia Reads [book recommendations by year level](#).

Create your own Australia Reads art

You're invited to personalise your own Australia Reads logo with our custom artwork creator – [use this free tool](#) to create your own personalised graphic, and then share online to show your support! You could also use the tool to make book labels for your personal reading boxes in the classroom for each student, or decorate the fridge at home with your 'to read' list!

Create your own **Australia Reads** art!

You're invited to personalise your own Australia Reads logo. Simply enter your name and email below, then share to show your support!

Alex

ALEX
READS

Enter your email

By entering your email address you're agreeing to our [Privacy Policy](#) and agree to join our e-newsletter mailing list for updates to our program.

Save your artwork

Australia Reads Ambassador Directory

Organised by Audience categories (Adult, Young Adult, Middle Readers, Early Readers and Preschoolers) and searchable by State or Territory, browse the [Ambassador Directory](#) to find a local author or illustrator who might be keen to join your event.

Australian Society of Authors

Information and resources on engaging and paying an author or illustrator for [Public Appearances](#) and [School Visits](#).

Support to host accessible and inclusive events

[Guide—Hosting accessible and inclusive in-person meetings and events](#) prepared by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Spread The Word (UK)

Written in consultation with deaf and disabled writers, the [Being Hybrid Guide](#) is designed to support time and resource-limited organisations in working out what they need to do to offer the best hybrid programme possible, in an easy and affordable way.

DeafNav

[DeafNav](#) is a neutral, centralised portal that helps you better understand, access and connect with the Deaf and hard of hearing community. You may need to consider booking an AUSLAN interpreter for your event.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATIS)

An Indigenous-led, national institute that celebrates, educates and inspires people from all walks of life to connect with the knowledge, heritage and cultures of Australia's First Peoples. [Learn more about giving an Acknowledgement of Country](#) or organising a Welcome to Country for your event.

Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA)

A not-for-profit, volunteer run organisation which aims to engage the community with literature for young Australians. [Browse winners lists](#) of the Australian Children's Book of the Year Award on their website.

World Book Day (UK)

[Help students run their own book events](#) with some ideas and suggestions from the team at World Book Day.

Book Trust (UK)

Children's [event ideas](#) for schools and libraries.