



GOOD NEWS ALERT

Tuesday 25 May 2021

200 AUSTRALIAN AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS JOIN AUSTRALIA READS

More than 200 Australian adult and children's authors and illustrators across the country have signed up to champion reading as Ambassadors for Australia Reads. Ranging from across every state and territory, and from award-winning bestselling to debut and self-published, these book creators come from diverse backgrounds and each bring their own unique experience to a national conversation about the value of reading.

Olivia Lanchester, CEO of the Australian Society of Authors says, 'Australia Reads – as a collaborative initiative across the book industry – offers emerging, new and established talent increased engagement and discoverability via its partnerships with schools, libraries, booksellers, and other organisations. We're so grateful to the many wonderful authors and illustrators who have supported this reading campaign.'

Australia Reads is a not-for-profit joint initiative of the Australian Booksellers Association, Australian Library & Information Association, Australian Publishers Association, and the Australian Society of Authors, dedicated to championing the extraordinary joy to be had in reading, promoting the many wellbeing benefits of reading books, and increasing the discoverability and accessibility of work by Australian book creators.

The full list of Ambassadors will be available on www.australiareads.org.au from 1 June 2021.

There is still time to sign-up so if you are an Australian author or illustrator email hello@australiareads.org.au

AUSTRALIAN READING HOUR CELEBRATES STORIES THAT MATTER

The much-loved annual Australian Reading Hour – the signature showcase for Australia Reads – returns for its tenth year on Tuesday 14 September 2021. Supported by a two-week national marketing and publicity campaign and with more than 180 Ambassadors available for events in-person and virtually, this year's program includes activities in schools, libraries, bookshops, shopping centres and on public transport.

Curated by Australia Reads around the theme *Stories that Matter: The Story of Me, the Story of You, and How we are becoming Us*, these events will run as book-club discussions for all ages exploring how the stories we read that matter to us, help shape our sense of identity, belonging and understanding – as individuals and as a nation.

To host an Australian Reading Hour event, please register your interest on hello@australiareads.org.au
Australian Reading Hour 2021 is made possible with support from the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

WITH FOUR NEW SPECIAL EDITIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

In-store 1 September 2021 | \$4.99 | 96 pages | B format Paperback

Learn, laugh, and love with four brand new Australia Reads Special Editions especially created to help make good books more readily accessible for young people from the award-winning team of Children's Laureate Ursula Dubosarsky and Andrew Joyner, acclaimed YA rom-com writer Jenna Guillaume, the dynamic duo of Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith and First Dog on the Moon, and hilarious AFL kids' series writers Nicole Hayes and Adrian Beck.

For further info including digital assets, interviews and event opportunities please contact Anyez Lindop, Brand, Marketing & Partnerships Manager | Australia Reads | anyez.lindop@australiareads.org.au | +61 419 008 556



Little Book Big Universe: A Guide to Exploring Australia's Sight Skies

by Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith with illustrations by First Dog on the Moon | Thames & Hudson

The Deep End by Jenna Guillaume | Pan Macmillan

AFL Little Legends: The Missing Cup by Nicole Hayes & Adrian Beck | Hardie Grant Children's Publishing

The Magnificent Hercules Quick by Ursula Dubosarsky, with illustrations by Andrew Joyner | Allen & Unwin

A WORD ON READING FROM OUR 2021 SPECIAL EDITION BOOK CREATORS

'By simply picking up a book we can experience adventures in other worlds, solve mysteries, fall in love AND defeat the baddies, all from the comfort of our couch. Humans are hardwired to share stories.' **Adrian Beck**

'When I'm not making books, I like to read them, especially poetry books. I don't mean to be prescriptive, but I think more people should read poetry. Go on, give it a try.' **Andrew Joyner**

'READING! I LOVE TO READ! BOOKS ARE OUR FRIENDS! THE MAGIC OF WORDS! I'm getting a bit teary just thinking about it.' **First Dog on the Moon**

'Reading offers an escape like no other. Immersing myself in different lives and worlds is one of my favourite things to do. Books are essential. They're fun and beautiful and thought-provoking and life-changing.'

Jenna Guillaume

'However busy you are, I reckon there is always time before bed to read a few pages. In my experience a few pages turn into a few chapters...'

Professor Lisa Harvey-Smith

'Reading is a way for us to escape and explore. It's how we process and understand the world around us - and the worlds we don't know yet. Reading is freedom. Its benefits are limitless.'

Nicole Hayes

'Read at breakfast with that first cup of tea or coffee - or bowl of cereal! Nobody likes talking at breakfast time (do they?) so it's a great time to read a book... Soon you won't be able to start the day without it.'

Children's Laureate Ursula Dubosarsky

With special thanks to the wonderful teams at Allen & Unwin, Hardie Grant Children's Publishing, Pan Macmillan and Thames & Hudson who have made the publication of these four fabulous books possible!

AUSTRALIA READS | PROMOTING A LOVE OF BOOKS

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