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SLAV, the school library association of Victoria, is the professional association for those who work in school libraries. Its members come together in 22 branches that meet regularly across the state to share and learn, a state council is the overarching body of the association.

I have the pleasure of representing the association at today's event and on behalf of SLAV I'd like to thank you for this opportunity.

School libraries embraced the National Year of Reading with open arms. In preparing this presentation I asked SLAV members to contribute, consequently I have a long list of activities and a range of photos to share with you, the following is then a compilation of some of what has happened in schools under the banner of the National Year of Reading in 2012.

Firstly,

The Act of Reading

We have facilitated, created or borrowed from others:

Read ins / Reading Lockdowns / Reading Hours
Family Reading Picnics
Cross age reading and Buddy reading opportunities
School reading challenges
Readers' Only Lunchtimes
And Flash reads.

Authors and Illustrators

Bringing young people together with those that created the books they love is an integral part of most school programs. During the National year of reading school libraries facilitated a range of opportunities for young people that included:

- Literary Festivals
- Writer in residence programs
- Book launches
- Author & Illustrator Visits

- Authors as school ambassadors
- And NYoR ambassador visits

Display

We have created displays with Word clouds, featured books, displays using the NYoR flower themes.

We have made reading tents, A 'Reading Tree' where each leaf added was a book read, a Quote Tree', A quilt featuring the NYR logo.

Photos of staff and students reading 'somewhere', anywhere, and End of term 'Great Holiday Reading' posters

We have also built brick walls – where each brick challenged students to finish the sentence 'I read because...'

Competitions

Creating positive feelings around reading can be extended through the provision of engaging activities that recognize knowledge and provide fun interaction. Everyone loves a Competition! We have had:

- Literary Treasure Hunts
- Favorite book competitions
- QR code competitions
- Trivia quizzes
- Author hosted writing competitions
- Photograph and Book trailer competitions
- A Valentine's Day/Library Lover's Day Competition
- Rebus Competitions
- A Year 12 'Animalia' Competition
- Match the book to the teacher
- Jeopardy Quizes
- A Literary Murder Mystery
- Title or spine poetry competitions

External Events

School libraries have been involved in the following happenings that have taken their students outside of the school, either in cooperation or competition with other students, giving celebrations a different focus and adding to the excitement.

We have been involved in:

Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge

The Inky Awards

The NYOR Creative Reading – Read this! Competition

National Simultaneous Story Time

Melbourne Writers' Festival Schools Program

Literacy & Numeracy Week

Write across Victoria

The Readers Cup competition

World Read Aloud Day

The Children's Book Council of Australia's Book Week: Engaging with the theme

'Champions Read' and their junior judging project

Public Library Membership Drives

The Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Library & Information Week

The International Association of School Librarianship's Bookmark Project

And the Are we there yet? Competition and Exhibition

Clubs/ Groups

School libraries used the focus of the National Year Of Reading to either create or extend

- Book Clubs
- Library assistant programs
- Staff Book Clubs
- Parent Book Clubs
- And a Tablet Book Club
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Reading and Food

A perfect combination!

Across Victorian schools we have had:

- Books and Bikkies events

- The Longest literary lunch
- Literary Dinners
- Books, blokes and brekkie events
- Staff Christmas afternoon tea & Christmas borrowing/ buying
- And a Snuggle up with a book event with hot chocolate

Reading Culture

Creating a successful reading culture is about ensuring our students are comfortable in our libraries, have a sense of ownership of the space, find reading materials they want to read and take pleasure in their reading. To facilitate this we have offered:

An inviting physical environment

Debates -“Is the book dead?”

We have created Book Bucket lists with our students

Involved everyone in a Great Book swap

Held Picture Story Book Month, Write a book in a day, School best book voting/awards and recognised a Reader of the month

Offered Badge making

Offered Reviewing opportunities for publication online and in journals such as

‘Viewpoint: on books for young adults’

Created Pop up libraries – anywhere, anytime!

Created NYOR bears who then spent time with readers all recorded on their own blog

Held Fancy Dress book character parades, Olympic reading challenges

Hosted Mystery Guest Readers and film screenings at lunchtimes.

And created Living Libraries

Literacy

The ultimate aim of all of our activities is to improve our student’s literacy abilities through reading. Schools have encouraged a focus on literacy by:

Reporting in newsletters on the importance of reading and literacy

Providing Guest speakers on the importance of reading and literacy for the wider community and to teachers

Operating 'Boys, Books & Reading' seminars for parents
And many libraries used the year to Launch ebook and audio book platforms to offer different formats to extend literacy of all kinds.

Supporting the Reading of others

Many school libraries have also raised funds for others through National Year of Reading Activities. In particular the Australian Books for Children of Africa Program and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

NEXT SLIDE - -LIST OF CONTRIBUTING SCHOOLS

NEXT SLIDE NYOR FLAG

That is a snapshot of events in Victorian school libraries for the National Year of Reading. It is by no means everything that happened but hopefully it gives you an idea of what this year has meant to school libraries.

The National Year of Reading has been a very special gift for us and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone here who had anything do with making it happen. It has been a truly wonderful and very special year. Thank you.

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