Hi to all school and public library contact people for 2015
I would like to extend a very warm welcome to everybody, both to new and ongoing contacts. I am delighted that you are supporting the Premier’s Reading Challenge in 2015.

Monthly email updates will keep you informed about upcoming events for key information about the Challenge. I thank you in advance for passing on relevant information to leaders, staff, students and the school and public library community and for your excellent support.

Posters and Premier’s letter
All posters and a letter to principals from the Premier via Infoconnect should have arrived in schools and public libraries. If you have not seen your posters yet, please check around your school.

Again, we have a primary and a secondary poster for the Challenge, as voted by students in 2014. They are aimed to engage students from Reception to Year 12. Both posters were sent to all sites, in a combination that is appropriate for your site’s student population.

We have had a lot of very positive feedback and it is fantastic to see so many schools ordering more posters for classrooms. They are a great visual literacy resource.

If there are any corrections to be made regarding the hall of fame reader for life awards, please email with full name, ED ID (if applicable), DOB and year level before 27 February, as this is the final amendment date for the 2014 awards.

Fast facts 2014
Please find attached the Premier’s Reading Challenge Fast Facts for 2014, which proved to be another highly successful year for the Challenge. Please feel free to circulate amongst your staff/school community.

New Award - reader for life champion (R4Lc)
The R4Lc will be presented for the first time this year to students who have completed the Challenge for twelve years. It is a gold stamped certificate personalised with the student’s name and signed by the Premier, with a yellow band to acknowledge twelve years of reading. The R4L series of certificates are impressive and are very useful for older students to place into their portfolios as evidence of persistence over a period of many years involved in a program/initiative.

Student reading records
Don’t forget the electronic version of the reading record, which can be a way for older students to record books read, then email the completed form to the teacher for verification and electronically filing, using the school’s intranet.

Hall of fame - honour roll
We currently have 18,028 students listed on the honour roll for 7 years of reading for the Challenge. 3,143 students were added in 2014.

There is to be an update of names of eligible students who have not yet been featured on the honour roll in April 2015. Any students who would like to have their name included on The Challenge hall of fame honour roll on the website need to have indicated ‘consent to print’ on their reading log. Please forward their details (no need to send us the names of students already on the roll as they will remain on the list) to us by 3 April 2015.

Please check against the Awards Completed by School report emailed with Update 1 for all students with consent.

If you have any more students to add to the hall of fame honour roll, or any other discrepancies, please fax or email me confirmation of this consent by 3 April to be included this year, using the attached sheet. There are no further updates to the honour roll until fourth term.
Data Entry
Data entry will be opening from Monday 6 July if you have completed the Challenge at your school.

Please note: you don’t have to enter all of your school’s data in one sitting.

Ambassadors
If you would like an ambassador team to present their school program including the Crows, Power, Adelaide United Football Club, Scorpions SA and Thunderbirds, please contact them directly. For Adelaide Lightning, please submit a request through our website. PLEASE NOTE: the teams offer their own programs, refer to their websites, and please do not send them Premier’s Reading Challenge visit requests.

For visits from our individual ambassadors, please submit a Request Form. These visits require a lot of planning and you are requested to plan and place requests early. They are generally organised in the last weeks of the term prior to the visit. We do ask schools visited to take photos and obtain permissions using the DECD consent form (if student faces are in the photos) and send them to us in order for them to be posted on the Challenge website. Schools are also requested to manage and submit a short article (often written by students) to accompany the photo.

Please be aware Adam Liaw is currently based interstate and his ambassador visits will be very limited. His promotion of reading and the Challenge will primarily be on the website.

2015:
• 12th year of the Challenge: reader for life champion (R4Lc) award.
• 161 new books added to the Challenge booklists. Please note: many books are part of a series and these are automatically added to the booklists.
• The Challenge has a twitter and facebook presence.
• TEENSPACE for secondary students
• Blog for students to discuss books now has a primary ‘Kidspeak’ and secondary ‘Teenspeak’ blog.
• Hall of Fame Honour Roll is live on the website with 3 143 students added for 2014.
• Public Libraries are continuing to support the Challenge libraries.
• The 2015 Challenge has both primary and secondary posters.
• Schools with 100% of students completing the Challenge will go into a draw to win a collection of 12 books for their school library.

Thank you to all Zoomerang survey respondents in 2014 who contributed useful feedback to inform decisions for 2015 and beyond. I will be working on some fantastic ideas - keep them coming.

Keys to the Challenge’s success at school level
• Enthusiastic, persistent and energetic school contact people
• Supportive classroom teachers, literacy coordinators, leaders and English teachers
• Encouragement from the school community for the Challenge to be seen as an integral part of the whole school literacy approach
• Secondary schools find it most successful when teachers of English incorporate the Challenge into the secondary English curriculum
• It is easier for everyone if students fill in their student reading records as they go – students may complete electronic logs, with teacher endorsement
• Regular promotion at assemblies, through newsletters and staff meetings
• Active encouragement of the parent and wider community to read to and with their children.

Website
Don’t forget to explore the website for many of ideas and information and promote its use by students, staff and families. Of particular note is the Guidelines section to refresh your memory on the parameters of the Challenge.

It is a good idea to keep the website on display or have a quick link on the desktop in the library or ICT suite so students, teachers and parents have easy access.

In 2014, there were 183,606 visitors which is an increase of almost 80%, with an average of 511 visitors per day and 1,783,181 page views. Over 71% of visitors were from Australia, followed by United States at over 11%, China at over 3%, then United Kingdom with over 2%.

Please promote KIDSPACE and TEENSPACE section to students. We had many students submitting Rate-a-reads to win a
book prize each month and get them involved in the blogs with new topics being posted regularly. Don’t forget ‘Teenspeak’ for secondary students, which compliments ‘Kidspeak’ for students to blog about books read.

The Links are great for finding out about other related initiatives that contribute to the encouragement of reading and improving literacy levels for both students and adults.

Aboriginal Students
In line with state and national strategies, schools are asked to encourage and support Aboriginal students to complete the Challenge.

The number of Aboriginal students completing the Challenge increased to 3,880 in 2014, which was a 3.4% rise. There may have been more Aboriginal students in the non-government sector who completed the Challenge but information is not available.

Banners
We have two Premier’s Reading Challenge roll up banners and one vertical banner for schools to borrow, for school library displays, assemblies, etc. They are very popular, so please plan and book your request as soon as possible: booking form.

School Annual Reports
Many schools are including Premier’s Reading Challenge statistics and information in school annual reports, site improvement plans and to inform whole-of-school approach to literacy. The following reports were sent out with update 1 for your information:

- Participant award summary 2014 shows how many students received each award and the gender breakdown for your school.
- School summary results shows the number of students completing the Challenge each year at your school since the Challenge began in 2004 and breaks this down by the bands of schooling.

Parents
Please use the attached draft newsletter insert / note home to parents/carers to help promote the Challenge and reading, if you would like to promote the Premier's Reading Challenge and reading at your school.

Participation in a Reading Challenge in other states and territories
Guideline 18 - Could you please let students and families new to the school from interstate know about this guideline?

Awards
If you have any more queries about correct awards from 2014 please contact me to sort them out as soon as possible. If there are any corrections to be made regarding the hall of fame reader for life awards, please email before 27 February, as this will be the final amendment date for the 2014 awards.

Booklists
The Premier’s Reading Challenge continues to contribute towards literacy achievement, by encouraging students to enjoy reading and improve literacy levels.

If a student has special literacy needs, books can be read from a lower level or books not on the booklist that may be more suitable can be read, at the teacher’s discretion.

In purchasing books for your library collections, you might like to download the updated annotated booklists from the website and make selections based on these lists. The booklists are reviewed by a panel of teachers and librarians, to ensure a range of quality literature.

The booklists are useful for teaching the literature strand in the Australian Curriculum: English.

In response to requests for the Challenge website to be more interactive and engaging for students, we have included a ‘like’ feature for all books on our booklists, with a live tally of the Top 10 books for each level. Students and teachers find the Top 10 a great reference point, to inform what others are reading. Teachers indicate that the tally of likes is useful in selecting books for students to enjoy.

Students are also able to leave a review to go in the running for our monthly book prize.

Please encourage students to make use of these features, which are great opportunities to explore informed appreciation of literature.

“Digital and online technologies continue to profoundly transform how members of Australian society work, meet, keep in touch, express themselves, share, build and store knowledge, and access material for pleasure and learning. Clearly,
digital and online materials present the English curriculum with new teaching opportunities. Enhancing the access of all teachers and students to these resources is critical."

*Shape of the Australian Curriculum: English - May 2009, pp: 15*

School staff and students are invited to recommend books for the booklist panel to consider.

A great idea for your school community is to paste the link to the booklists on the school’s homepage on the intranet, for students and families to have ready access to them.

**Changed and Deleted Items**
Please note that there were no deleted book amendments to the booklist for 2014.

**Challenge your students**
Please encourage students to challenge themselves and read a range of books rather than reading extensively from one series. Lists of all series: ['Printing Booklists']

Challenge your students to:
- read a book from each of the categories
- cap their reading of a series at two books
- read twelve different authors
- read one book from the next reading age
- share a read with friends, like a reading group and discuss it
- post a review on the rate a read section of the Kidspace page of the website to win prizes
- write blogs for the website about their reading in ‘Kidspeak’ or ‘Teenspeak’
- recommend a book to the booklist panel, who meet once a term
- develop a literacy-based research project in the senior years.

**Student reading records from past years**
I have been asked by a number of people whether they should keep the student reading records from previous years. I advise archiving them for two years after students have left, just in case they are ever needed. As time goes on it is more difficult for teachers or parents or students to remember when they first started the Challenge or whether it was completed in a certain year. We do have central records but when they can be backed up by school records, they prove critical in resolving issues.

**Staff news**
It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that we bid farewell (for the moment) to Kaleen Raethel who is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Kaleen and her husband on the safe arrival of their baby daughter Liberty, sister to Alicia.

Thank you for your efforts in and involvement with the Challenge. Without your dedication, enthusiasm, perseverance and support, the program could not run. Please [contact me](mailto:carmel.jones@sa.gov.au) with any suggestions or ideas that you might have.

All the very best for a successful Challenge in 2015, keep up the momentum and encourage and support your students to enjoy their reading.

*Carmel Jones*
Manager - Premier’s Reading Challenge
Level 2 West, 31 Flinders Street Adelaide SA 5000
Courier R11/9A Phone: 8226 2006 Fax: 8226 2005
Email: [carmel.jones@sa.gov.au](mailto:carmel.jones@sa.gov.au)