

Mount Barker Community Library Christmas Extravaganza 2007

The Mount Barker Community Library in South Australia became the happiest place on earth during the Library's third annual Christmas Extravaganza on Monday 17 December 2007.

Children, parents and grandparents enjoyed a full day of free activities, entertainment and family fun beginning with an energetic performance by the extremely popular South Australian children's music group - the Ticklish Allsorts who performed their Christmas show *Jingle All the Way* to the appreciative audience of around 350 people.

At the conclusion of the Ticklish Allsorts show Father Christmas arrived heading off to the library's Magic Cave to await the swarm of happy children ready to reveal their Christmas wishes and have a free family photo taken with the Jolly old man in red as a memento of their time at the Library's Christmas Extravaganza.

While families waited in queues to see Father Christmas, get their face painted, get a bag of fairy floss, receive a henna tattoo or participate in one of the other activities on offer - including play dough, colouring in, puzzles and crafts - roving performers continued to entertain and surprise them with astounding juggling skills, clowning around and balloon modelling.

Around 200 stayed for the special 'Little Big Book Club' appearance of popular children's author and TV personality Andrew Daddo. Andrew entertained the family audience with stories of his life and provided amusing anecdotes of the things that inspired him in the writing of his books.



Santa, Andrew Daddo and the staff of Mount Barker Community Library

Andrew Daddo

The Ticklish Allsorts perform

And still it didn't stop. After his talk Andrew signed copies of his books, Father Christmas returned, face painting continued and a couple of hundred balloons were released. Andrew Daddo was extremely generous with his time and happily posed for photos with lucky children, adults, library staff and Father Christmas.

The Mount Barker Community Library's Christmas Extravaganza 2007 was our biggest, most professional and best timed extravaganza yet with an approximate 33% increase on the previous years attendance. Library staff put an enormous amount of effort into planning, organising, preparing and ensuring that all went well on the day and the success of the day is encapsulated by one mother's comment:

'What a wonderful gift to the community.'

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'The Librarians'

How fitting that Halloween was the chosen date for the ABC's premiere of *'The Librarians'*, a mockumentary of what some might say is a scarily accurate reflection, if not of the library profession itself, but of the characters one might encounter...

To complement the spate of parties taking place throughout Australia to celebrate the first broadcast, the QUT Information Professionals Alumni hosted its own costume party- come dressed in your best librarian outfit'- complete with prizes, quizzes, food and wine, not to mention a theatre sized television on which to watch the much anticipated/dreaded premiere.

Librarians from information and technology learning centres across Brisbane came to see what the fuss was all about, and the wine helped to create a jovial atmosphere during the fashion parade and the hysterically difficult library quiz.



Shhhhhh!

The verdict? Everyone laughed when they were supposed to, and no one seemed to take offence. Frances the head librarian seemed to take on a David Brent-like persona, with her ability to make some viewers cringe. One attendee was overheard saying to a friend, 'Wow, I am Dawn. I always waive library fees!' Another said, 'Yes, that's so true - you never know what will turn up in the returns chute.'

For more information on the QUT Information Professionals please visit <http://www.alumni.qut.edu.au/networking/chapters/infoprof/index.jsp> or contact Julianne Neal, The Chapter President, on j2.neal@qut.edu.au

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