

# The dangerous & daring library for boys & girls

*Children in Danger* was the delightfully provocative headline in the local newspaper that launched the Mount Barker Community Library's Dangerous and Daring school holiday program for 2008.



*Native Wildlife in the shadow of a giant echidna*



*A crowd of children making kites*

With generous support from Harper Collins Publishers Australia and inspired by the bestselling books, *The dangerous book for boys* and *The daring book for girls*, South Australia's Mount Barker Community Library invited families to be active, creative and curious while participating in one or more of the activities and competitions that the library had to offer over the summer.

In the shadow of a giant inflatable echidna, families saw, touched and learnt about Australia's native wildlife, were entertained by science shows that explored fluids and sound, kicked ass at Karate, made

their own Enigma device creating virtually unbreakable coded messages, made puppets, beaded bugs, stained glass decorations and ceramic tiles.

Walk down the streets of Mount Barker and you could see kids wearing tie dyed T-shirts created at the library. You could also see children (and dads) with their arms outstretched, making aeroplane sounds after being part of the crowd who were captivated by Wing Commander Alf Jonas' tales of test pilot training in the US, flying through thunderstorms for scientific research and being a part of the rescue party that saved Thierry Dubois in the Southern Ocean.

With \$2000 worth of prizes kindly donated by local or South Australian businesses up for grabs, children had the chance to win a digital camera by entering a photo with an animal theme in the *Zoom Kid's Photo competition*; a mountain bike, books or family zoo pass just by participating in one or more of the Dangerous & Daring activities. By exploring and answering questions about the local area, one family had the chance to win a once in a lifetime opportunity to swim with dolphins.

Did Mount Barker kids read more over the summer? Probably not, but some of them may have been inspired to become wildlife warriors, intelligence officers, scientists, pilots, artists and maybe even librarians.

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## The Children's Peace Literature Award – 2007

*Don't Call Me Ishmael* by Michael Gerard Bauer has been awarded The Children's Peace Literature Award.



Selected from more than 100 entries, the judging panel was impressed by the book's literary merit, engaging humorous style, the main character's empathy and support for others, and his ability to put himself into the shoes of his adversary in order to resolve conflict.

The Children's Peace Literature Award is a national biennial award made to one or more Australian authors of a children's book that encourages the non-violent resolution of conflict or promotes peace at the global, local or interpersonal level.

Organised by the South Australian Branch of Psychologists for Peace, an interest group of The Australian Psychological Society, the winning and short-listed books were selected by a panel of psychologists and

children's literature experts for their literary merit and on demonstrating a constructive, non-violent approach towards the resolution of conflict

### Winning entry

*Don't Call Me Ishmael* by Michael Gerard Bauer (Omnibus)

### Shortlist

*The Goldseekers* by Greg Bastian (Angus & Robertson)

*Don't Call me Ishmael* by Michael Gerard Bauer (Omnibus)

*The Story of Tom Brennan* by J.C.Burke (Random House)

*One Whole and Perfect Day* by Judith Clarke (Allen & Unwin)

*Born to Bake* by Phillip Gwynne (Penguin – Aussie Bites)

*Lost Property* by James Moloney (Penguin)

*The Worry Tree* by Marianne Musgrove (Random House)

Summaries can be found on <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/>

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