

Across the story bridge: Children's Book Week 2010 launches a new author's career

Bridging the Generational Gap at Rockhampton Regional Libraries



Lindell Lutton, CBCA Co-ordinator

From a vibrant window display through to talks, presentations and emergent literary story sessions throughout the Region, the Rockhampton Regional Council Libraries provided a variety of experiences to extend this year's Children's Book Week theme.

Two talented staff members from the Rockhampton North Library combined their efforts to imagine a fantastic window display for Children's Book Week for 2010. For the theme, 'Across the story bridge' a suspension bridge was fashioned out of wood, rope and paint by a willing partner of one of these staff members. This stunning piece of workmanship was the main feature of the window. Colourful cardboard people holding hands are seen reaching across the bridge, while books and interesting facts about bridges were hung and pinned around the display. Young and old alike have been intrigued by the display; effectively bridging the generational gap.

The annual Children's Book Week competition conducted by Council's Libraries to *Write and Illustrate a Children's Picture Book* attracted a fine selection of books targeting an early childhood readership. The brief to create a book using any subject, theme, format or style was open to library members of all ages, with competition especially fierce in the open category. A very successful presentation evening was held at the Rockhampton Regional Library during Children's Book Week, with guest judge (and current CBCA Awards Coordinator) Lindell Lutton providing feedback and commentary about the entries. As a result of the competition, the winner of the open category is currently in negotiations with a publisher.

Linking two concurrent weeks proved especially effective for two other programs conducted during the week.

Children and seniors were invited to dress up as a favourite storybook character for an event held at the Regional Library connecting the last day of Seniors Week with the start of Book Week. A 60 & Better Drama group presented a Fractured Readers' Theatre presentation of *Rapunzel*, complete with Rapunzel creatively using denture paste to stick pimples on her face. Two young performance poets inspired the audience with poetry by a local author, with guest storytellers sharing the performance space.

Local authors shared stories of growing up in Rocky during the 1940s and 1950s, attracting a significant gathering to the Regional Library during the week. As part of the monthly Living Literature series at the Library, where local authors are

invited to discuss their writing journey, the evening featured two families talking about their childhood experiences with archival film footage from the Rockhampton Regional Council's Special Collections shown during the talk. Footage of events such as an annual picnic at the beach with associated running



The story bridge at Rockhampton North Library

aces, tarpaulin crawling, games featuring tyres, three-legged races and tucking into morning tea delighted patrons and authors alike and stimulated many joyful reminiscences.

Story sessions and outreach events at libraries throughout the Region further extended the joyous infectiousness of reading and fine books for young people during celebrations for Children's Book Week 2010.

Debra Burn

Operations Manager
Rockhampton Regional Council Libraries

Bankstown TAFE Child Studies students star in Children's Book Week

Children from Coolamon, (Bankstown TAFE Child Care Centre), were treated to a special story time session to celebrate Children's Book Week.

As in past years, this session was carefully prepared and then presented in the library by our Child Studies Students. This provided an excellent opportunity for the students to practice the knowledge and skills gained in their course.

The children loved the songs and activities, along with the reading of the story *The Wrong Book*. Each child in turn received a certificate of participation, featuring the 'Across the story bridge' theme and balloons to take home.

The session was a huge success all round and in appreciation of their efforts, the library staff presented the students with their own certificate and each received a letter of thanks from the Library Manager at a celebratory afternoon tea.

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