



# READ on the WILD SIDE

## Alice Springs

The Alice Springs Public Library's Summer Reading Club this year was very popular. We had approximately 105 children and teenagers sign up. Toby Mathews, who was in the 13-17 year old age group, participated in the Club because he wanted to win the prize of an MP3 player for his mother, whose birthday was the day of the presentation and BBQ. Toby read a total of 110 books and won both the MP3 player as well as the mystery prize for his age group, which was a digital camera. His mother was very proud of him and very impressed with her birthday present.



went into the draw - that's a total of 10 340 books read over the summer! Winners received book packs and book vouchers. We celebrated with not one, but two finale parties, with the ever popular Wild Action on hand to help with the fun and celebrations.

## Burnie

Michael, from *All about Reptiles* delivered sessions about snakes to 3 libraries along the coast. It attracted over 80 children and adults at Burnie, over 100 at Devonport, and 140 at Smithton. Michael brought out slithering tiger snakes on sticks and a blue tongue lizard and python to be 'patted'. Cleaning the table afterwards, I reflected on what we had all learned: that tiger snakes come in a range of colours; copperheads are unpredictable; and that snakes don't poo very often - my lucky day!

## Cairns

Cairns Libraries celebrated with a couple of wild (and one wacky!) workshops in January to celebrate the SRC. At a drawing workshop, children learned basic drawing techniques, drawing wild Australian animals and a not-so-Australian, but very wild tap-dancing monster!

*Where the Wild Things Are* Storybook Adventures Workshop involved a dramatic reading of the classic story with children donning Max and Wild Things costumes and puppets, acting out the story before making their own Wild Thing costume out of various craft materials.



A wacky Andy Griffith's *Just Macbeth* Workshop in Film and Drama, open for teens interested in drama, was an absolute hoot with the kids acting and filming their own section of this very silly, very funny version of Shakespeare.

To finish off we held a special SRC adventure dress up party with special guest Kier Shorey, our local breakfast presenter with ABC Local Radio, joining in the fun (he made his own 'jet pack' out of egg cartons, cellophane, and aluminium foil!). Kids decorated a wall with their 'favourite book of the summer' activity sheet and were each given SRC certificates. We also handed out prizes donated to us by SLQ.

## Canada Bay

The Canada Bay Library Service celebrated the 2010 Summer Reading Club with a visit by the Zoomobile. The kids came nose to nose with some of Australia's stunning wildlife.

At the Walk on the Wild Side workshop the kids were transformed into 'Wild Things' making headdresses, ears, and claws.



We had our best response ever to the Summer Reading Club program - 236 kids registered, 109 kids completed the Reading Record, reading approximately 1500 books. These children were presented with certificates by the Mayor Angelo Tsirekas at the Summer Reading Club party.

## Cessnock and Kurri Kurri

For the first time ever, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries invited adults to join the Summer Reading Club, under the premise that adults demonstrate to their kids (or grandkids) that they value reading, and showing kids they will have a bit of fun by joining the previously kids-only club.



Adults handed their reading logs in, one stating "I read some interesting books so the staff don't think I only read mush". In total 25% of our entrants were adults, making this a very successful new venture with great follow-on effects for adults and children.

## Griffith

As an extension of our Book Week live reptile show, Griffith City Library followed on the jungle theme with the Summer Reading Club. This year was our biggest yet, with over 130 participants. We were fortunate to have the sponsorship of our local cinema, who donated free movie passes to all those who signed up for the Summer Reading Club.

Encouragement prizes were handed out along the way with some kids flashing their bright wristbands when they next came in to the library. Comments from mum and dad were also very positive.

On the final day of the challenge we invited all children who signed up to a free movie screening of *The Wild* (still going with the whole jungle theme), and pizza. On one of our hottest days in January (40 degrees + ), the library was the place to be!

We look forward to participating in next year's challenge.

## Leeton

Things got wild at Leeton over the summer. We decided to incorporate the showing of *Where the Wild Things Are* at our local theatre with the Read on the Wild Side promotion.

Robert and Charlie (our inflatable rhino and crocodile) were incorporated into a jungle display for promotion and were featured on the front page of our local



## Bellingen

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January NSW National Parks Senior Ranger Barbara Webster and Bellingen Shire Council Ranger Brett Hannaford spoke about what they do as National Parks and Council Rangers. Senior Ranger Barbara bought some fluffy friends along to help share the importance of looking after wildlife, and Council Ranger Brett explained about the importance of registering animals, notifying the



Ranger of any dangerous animals, and other tasks that he performs. As well, the libraries offered Read on the Wild Side competitions with prizes to all children who entered and a \$50 book voucher for the winning adult prize.

## Blacktown

During a special presentation on Thursday 18 February, 2010 Blacktown City Mayor Charlie Lowles congratulated the children who participated in the Blacktown City Libraries third Summer Reading Club, in the Bowman Hall, Blacktown, as there was nowhere in the library large enough for a crowd of over 650 participants.



Photos courtesy of UWS

Over the recent summer holiday period, 452 children completed the program, reading a grand total of 8306 books! This is a growth of 30% on last year's program. This means more children are reading, making them more successful in preparing for the 2010 school year.

## Brimbank

A wild time was had by all at Brimbank Libraries this summer. We had a whopping record number of children register this year - 1372 in all! 1034 entries



# SUMMER READING CLUB 2010

newspaper with some not-so-wild junior patrons. Children who attended the movie received an entry into our draw which was validated by borrowing a book. Alternatively children could fill in a reading log consisting of five books. Each child was able to enter three reading logs.

## Kiama

Was there something in the air at Kiama this year? I don't know – but this year the Summer Reading Club attracted a record number of participants.

We had 141 children register and, between them, read a total of 1540 books. Our only promotion was posters around the library and flyers to local schools.

Prizes were the same – no bikes or televisions or holidays – just the usual assortment of donated items. The holiday weather was great. Endless sunny days – not a rainy, reading day in sight! Was it the news that all books read could be added to their Premier's Reading Challenge tally? Maybe it was the amazing wrist bands, tattoos, and stickers they received when they returned diary sheets? What was the reason for increased numbers? I don't know – but I am really glad that 91 children spent at least part of their summer reading.

Can't wait for next year! (well maybe I can wait a little bit...)

## Narrabri

Narrabri Library had a huge response to the Summer Reading Club. We had 102 registrations and 33 reading logs returned. We constructed a nine-foot-tall palm tree made from balloons, complete with a monkey, in the library which proved a great way to introduce the promotion. We ran weekly competitions which were also well supported. Twenty-nine children attended the prize giving party and prizes were presented by our mayor.



## Maitland

Reading was promoted at Maitland City Library as a summer leisure activity, with over 600 books read by local kids who registered for the program. The reading program was supplemented with a range of fun activities on a wild circus theme. The exuberant Circus Avalon entertained and energised kids, including free workshops and performances filled with terrifying tricks and teeth-clenching



traps. Juggling, diabolo, devil sticks, hula-hoops, uni-cycling, and amazing acrobatics were all the go, as well as balloon-twisting and drawing circus animals (a workshop provided by artists dressed as clowns!).

Serious fun all round!

## Payneham

They came one, they came all,  
They came in a veritable stampede.  
They came small, they came bigger,  
They came alone, in pairs and in packs.  
They read mysteries, thrillers and romance,  
Fantasy, science fiction, adventure and humour.  
Great migrations of bodies moved in unison towards  
the celebratory party,  
Where promises of prizes, games, magic and glitter  
awaited all.  
A cacophony of roars, yelps and squeals of delight  
was heard emanating from the throng,  
Whose eager tones told the tale of their excitement  
over a great summer of reading.



## Onkaparinga

The Onkaparinga library service has delivered its annual Summer Reading Club, and for the first time children have registered online using Evanced Solutions' Summer Reader software. Summer Reader helped library staff manage in-house registrations and offered an online registration self-service option for customers. Summer Reader also allowed staff to easily collect and manipulate statistics and produce reports.

Young library customers registering on-line have read over 3844 books and chalked up 2000 reviews, passing comment from Eric Hill's to John Boyne's *Boy in the striped pyjamas*.

## Wentworth

On registration, each child received a pack containing instructions, reading lists, tattoo, wrist band, sticker, book mark, activity sheets, and reading



records. As each book was read, its title and reader were marked on a special snake scale. It was wonderful to see the library snakes grow in length as the children read their books. After reading 10 books, the reader was eligible to submit an entry in the prize draw. There were 4 categories of readers, from pre-school to 14. The program ended with a snake activity session and prize draw.

## West Gippsland

Unprecedented numbers of young readers joined up to 'Read On The Wild Side' at West Gippsland Regional Library Corporation this year. Some of our participants read well over 100 titles. As a reward for their hard work, we invited them to be party animals and make their own wild creations with



modelling balloons. This event was held at two of our libraries and we would recommend it as a fun, easy-to-manage, inexpensive event for our summer readers. All you need is modelling balloons, balloon pumps, snacks, and some adults on hand to help the very little readers.

## Yarra

For an ongoing summer activity Yarra Libraries' Summer Reading Club made up book boxes containing 4 or 5 picture books that highlighted Australian authors and/or fitted the 'wild' theme. Kids read the books in the library and entered a competition by answering some questions. We rotated the boxes around the branches fortnightly. It kept the Club momentum going.



We also ran sessions where kids dressed up in wild costumes or made animal masks. We photographed the kids with 'wild' books then the kids decorated frames for the photos. The dress-ups lent to us by a local costume hire shop were fantastic.

## Yarra Plenty

Yarra Plenty Regional Library had over 1000 children going WILD in our libraries over the summer holidays! With eight branches hosting launch parties, nearly 50 different WILD activities, and wrap-up parties as well, the kids were thrilled to be part of the club. This year YPRL developed its own set of characters to promote the initiative: three children with either a giraffe, elephant, or zebra friend reading over their shoulders. These WILD little guys were loved by all and collected on stickers, bookmarks, and badges as the kids read towards the first prize of a Netbook computer! Another fantastic SRC!

