

10 March 2023

### **Mataranka Library Hosts Australian Reading Hour**

Australian Reading Hour is a national day dedicated to sharing the joys of books, reading and stories for one hour.

This year, Roper Gulf Regional Council is proud to support the Australian Reading Hour, which is an Australia Reads initiative.

On Thursday 9 March 2023 the Mataranka Library hosted the Mataranka School, Jilkminggan School, Jilkminggan Family as First Teachers (FaFT) and local Aged Care clients for a community 'Reading Hour' at the Mataranka Hall.

The audience listened to four local guests read their favourite books.

Paige Burt, a teacher from Mataranka School, started by reading her favourite book 'Belinda' by Pamela Allen.

Aaron Mardi and Kerri Coghlan, teachers from Jilkminggan School, were next and they read 'Main Abija' (My Grandad) by Karen Rogers.

Main Abija is a bilingual book with Kriol and English on each page. Aaron read the story in Kriol and Kerri read the story in English so both Kriol and English speakers in the audience could enjoy this beautiful book.

Next up was Mataranka Police Sergeant Michael Valladares, who read his own book that he wrote for his sons.

And last but not least, Mataranka resident Cheryl Birch read 'How Frogmouth Found Her Home' by Ambelin Kwaymullina.

After the panel guests read their books, the students picked their favourite books from the library selection and broke up into smaller reading circles.

It was very special to see Mataranka Aged Care client Jeffrey Doctor join the reading circle with his grandchildren as they enjoyed the Reading Hour together with family.

CEO Marc Gardner commended the Council staff, teachers and volunteers who organised and attended the event yesterday.

"Books, reading, literacy, storytelling and listening are critically important for the development and learning for all children. It is so good to see our communities embracing this and coming together for such a fantastic event!"

“Children are our future and providing valuable events like this, through our libraries with books and resources for our communities, is fundamental to supporting children’s growth and learning,” Mr Gardner said.

The libraries across our region are proudly supported by Northern Territory (NT) Library & Archives.

If you would like to see more photos from the Mataranka Australian Reading Hour, head to our website at <https://ropergulf.nt.gov.au/our-business/news/2023/mataranka-library-hosts-australian-reading-hour>.

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For more information, please contact:

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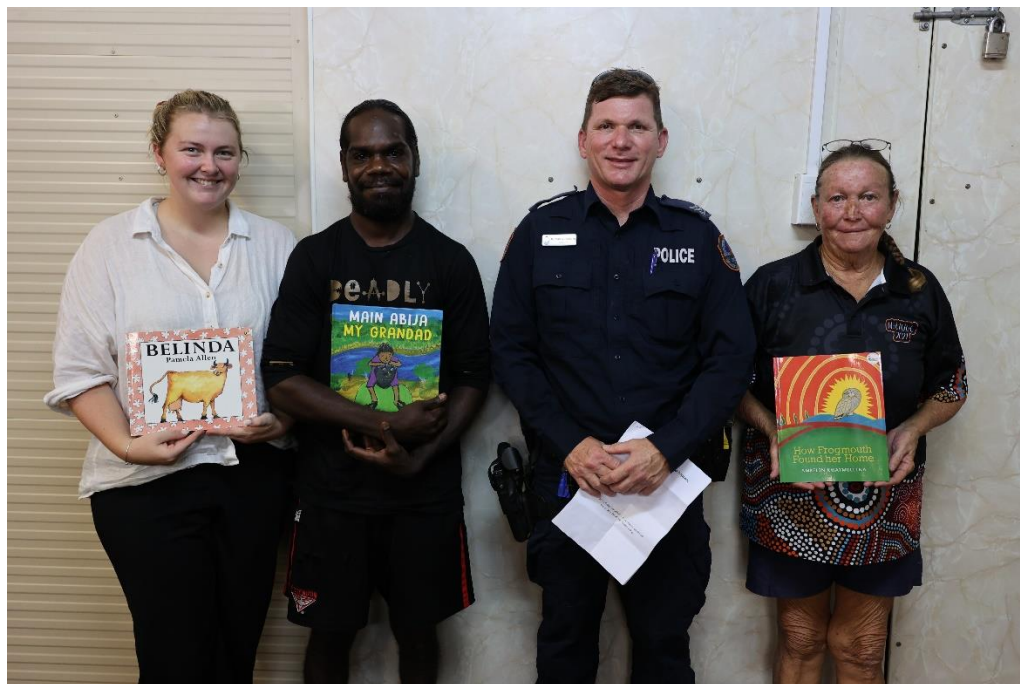


Image description: Mataranka Australian Reading Hour panel guests.

Pictured: Paige Burt, Aaron Mardi, Michael Valladares and Cheryl Birch.



Image description: Reading Circles.



Image description: Mataranka Aged Care client Jeffrey Doctor enjoying a book with his grandchildren and other students, read by Kerri Coghlan.



Image description: Kerri and Aaron reading 'Main Abija' (My Grandad) by Karen Rogers in Kriol and English.

Pictured: Kerri Coghlan and Aaron Mardi (Jilkminggan School).



Image description: Audience members listening to the panel guests.