

BOOKS IN HOMES (MOREE)

Rotary Club of Turramurra The Moree Project

For the last three years the Rotary Club of Turramurra, with support from North Ryde and Chatswood/Roseville Clubs, has sponsored the 'Books in Homes' literacy project for Moree East Public School. The population of this disadvantaged school includes 87% of students from the Aboriginal community.

'Books in Homes' is a not for profit foundation whose goal is to get books into the homes of children in isolated and/or low socio-economic areas. The children choose their books from a catalogue and they are delivered to the school.

The advantages of the program are that reading can be an everyday activity; parents can be involved and see the importance of having books in the home and it leads to an improvement in literacy. Poor reading skills result in low self-esteem, poor education outcomes and limited career opportunities.

Rotarians have visited the school on four occasions. In December last year, five members of Turramurra Club and PDG Mina Howard attended the special 'Books in Homes' Assembly. We were able to help hand the books to the children and I spoke to them about the importance of reading and caring for books. We then went to classrooms where we could chat to the children and read a story from one of the new books.

At the Assembly we were privileged to hear the students give the welcome to country and sing the national anthem in their own language. It was spine tingling. Our next visit is planned for the 2nd to 5th July when we will see a showcase of children's work for NAIDOC week and join them for activities related to their culture.

Three other clubs are planning to sponsor Books in Home in disadvantaged schools in NSW. Lane Cove is considering Walgett; Northbridge, Wellington and the E-Club, Bourke. I am delighted that this literacy program is spreading to other disadvantaged schools.

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IPDG Mina Howard in Moree - Posted July 27, 2023