

BOOK DAY FOSTERS A LOVE OF READING

Students at St Thomas More School in Alfredton dressed up in their favourite book characters and participated in activities that fostered a love of reading during the school's Book Day on September 3.

The whole school came together to read Australian children's book *The Stone Lion* before Ballarat-based illustrator Ritva Voutila visited to speak about her work.

A Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt held in the library was another highlight of the day, as well as a book swap, art activities and dress up parades.

St Thomas More School Prep to Grade 2 literacy leader Jean Crafter said the pupils' excitement for the day and their exposure to Australian children's literature helped foster a love of books and reading. "You can see their excitement when finding out about all the books nominated," she said. "Even dressing up in the different characters highlights that books are fun to read, encouraging them to get to know the characters and what happens in stories."

This year's theme was 'reading is my secret power'. Ms Crafter said the theme empowered all pupils to learn through reading.

Schools across Australia celebrated Book Week from August 17 to 23. St Thomas More School rescheduled their celebrations to this week to fit in with other school activities.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Rochelle Kirkham and photos by Lachlan Bence



Above: Rhys and Oliver dressed up as book characters for Book Day on Tuesday.



Right: Grade one student Ben dressed up as Harry Potter.