



Media Release

31 January 2008

“Rocket into Reading” summer reading project at Waimakariri District Libraries

Almost 100 children have ‘rocketed into reading’ at Waimakariri District Libraries over the holidays.

They were the first to take part in a family oriented, incentive based programme for seven to 12 year olds designed to encourage pupils to continue reading over the summer break from school.

The theme for the summer of 2007 / 2008 was “Rocket into Reading”.

The programme, run for the first time in Waimakariri last summer, is based on the well established ‘E.C Read ‘n’ programme pioneered on the East Coast of the North Island.

(A decade on it is now used in over 40 libraries involving 8,000 participants from pre-schoolers to teens.)

Participants enrol with their parents’ or caregiver’s permission to ensure support for the programme in the home.

Each child then has to read at least four books (but many more if they wish and many did).

They also have to check in with a librarian a minimum of four times over the period of the project, discussing the books they read and being encouraged to choose and read more.

In the Waimakariri, the programme attracted 92 readers with an almost 50/50 split between boys and girls.

There was a fairly even spread of age ranges but was most popular with the seven year olds.

86% achieved all four programme checks.

The Friends of the Waimakariri District Libraries helped fund the project, including an end of programme party for those who achieved the four-check milestone.

District Libraries Manager, Simon Burge, says library staff loved being involved with the programme.

“The children gave us lots of detail about the books they were reading during the check-ins.

You could feel the enthusiasm, enjoyment and sense of achievement from reading that made it a pleasure to be a part of the project.”

The libraries hope to repeat the programme this summer.

For more information, please contact:

Simon Burge
District Libraries Manager
Waimakariri District Libraries
T. 03 313 0607
E. simon.burge@wmk.govt.nz