



Great Southern Grammar and South Stirling Primary School students with authors Wendy Binks, Meg McKinlay and Leanne White.

Picture: Katherine M

Schools unite for write reason

KATHERINE MOUNTAIN

GREAT Southern school children had the chance to get up close and personal with some of their favourite authors as part of the inaugural Children's Literature Festival last week.

The festival, organised and hosted by Great Southern Grammar, celebrated WA children's literature with a two-day program of sessions with local and visiting authors Dianne Wolfer, Jon Doust, Leanne White, Meg McKinlay, Rebecca Cool and Wendy Binks.

GSG teacher and librarian Elinor Couper said the festival was the first of its kind in Albany, and hoped it would become an annual event.

"We decided to do it this year because it ties in really well with the National Year of Reading, which is all about encouraging and promoting literacy and reading," she said.

Ms Couper said schools had travelled from across the Lower Great Southern to take part in the festival.

Schools attending included

South Stirling Primary School, Wellstead Primary School, Many-peaks Primary School, Parklands Primary School and Bethel Christian School.

"We decided to invite all schools from around Albany and the Great Southern to take part because smaller schools sometimes don't have the resources to bring in authors or celebrities for events like these," she said.

"Wellstead Primary School travelled 110km to be here today.

"The whole school came down, which was absolutely fantastic."

Denmark-born and Perth-based children's author Wendy Binks said it was a "great thing for the region".

"It's been fantastic, it's a great concept with all the schools coming in together to participate," she said.

"I can imagine it becoming even bigger."

Children's writer and poet Meg McKinlay took part in both days of the festival and said the authors had been well received by the groups of students.

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