

# A prized mosaic

Jacqui Pickerill, Inglewood Library branch librarian, City of Stirling

City of Stirling's Inglewood Library was awarded the Bess Thomas Award 2002 from the Australian Library and Information Association and received a \$250 grant toward a project that would initiate and supplement our public library services for young people.

The courtyard area adjacent to the children's activity room was chosen as the venue for a community art project. The project involved Year 7 students from the Inglewood Primary School and two locally based mosaic artists, Chris Jones and Renae Martin. They worked with the library staff and school children to create a sixteen metre mosaic mural on the courtyard wall, based on the very popular children's picture book by Eric Carle *The very hungry caterpillar*.

Jacqui Pickerill, branch librarian, invited artists Chris and Renae to take on the project and they happily accepted the challenge. The project had the support of the City of Stirling, who prepared the wall, and many local businesses who sponsored the project by donating the materials required. All helped to make the project financially viable. Library staff member Sorcha Mothersole chose the theme from

the book and drew the original drawings.

The project was co-ordinated by assistant branch librarian Francine Nababan, with teacher librarian Jan Douglas who is also the art teacher at the school. Louise Cartledge, a dedicated school and library volunteer also helped with the project. The art work commenced on 8 September 2002 and continued for six weeks. Chris and Renae worked with half the children on the wall mural and limestone pots, and Francine worked with the other half of the children painting designs onto two floor mats which will be used for children's story-time sessions and other activities.

The children were very proud of their work and the area was opened in November 2002 to celebrate the completion and thank the sponsors. Those involved in the project received a T-shirt with the butterfly section of the design on the front. The children were very excited with their



Some of the student artists who worked on the project (l-r) Alexander Cartledge, Ben Chopping, Peter Rice, Jane Godfrey, Viraya Lim, Felecia Kennedy, Ryan Massey, Tristan Barnes and Edric Matwiejew

T-shirts and the majority had them on as they left.

This project has added a new dimension to the courtyard area that was hardly ever utilised. The area will now be a very popular venue for outdoor activities. The Bess Thomas Award contributed with additional funding and helped provide the inspiration for the library to embark on the project. Library patrons will appreciate the courtyard area for years to come. ■

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