



TELLING TALES IN BALINGUP

Media Release

Balingup transformed into a storybook world on the 7th and 8th July for the annual Telling Tales in Balingup event. Over 300 families from all over WA were treated to a wonderful weekend of children’s storytelling sessions, and workshops with WA authors and illustrators.

Published authors and illustrators including, Norman Jorgensen, Elaine Forrestal, Gabriel Evans, Cristy Burne, Josh Langley, Deb Fitzpatrick and more all proved to be wonderful inspirations to children young and old. Authors read from their books and shared their experiences of how they get inspiration for their stories. They also shared their different experiences of the process involved in writing and publishing a children’s book.

Talented illustrator Gabriel Evans from Bridgetown, headed an impressive line-up of children’s story book illustrators. Their sessions had the children mesmerized, and inspired many to ‘give it a go themselves’.

The Balingup Town Hall was a hive of activity with workshops in creative writing, kite making and book binding. Local story tellers took up residence in the cafés and other quaint and quirky venues throughout the town. They treated the children to May Gibbs, Roald Dahl, Dr Zuess and Rudyard Kipling.

A popular addition this year was the song writing session with Mary and Sarah Evan which explored story telling through song.

Winners of the inaugural Geraldine Hallahan Children’s Writing Competition were announced on Saturday. The competition aims to inspire young writers.

The main street was adorned with a host of quirky ‘story book scarecrow characters’, and these added vibrancy to this wonderful event! Many business owners dressed in character which certainly contributed to an atmosphere of fun – there’s certainly a disproportionate number of ‘big kids’ in Balingup and surrounds!

Saturday’s procession of story book characters was a hit once again with the King & Queen of Hearts, the Mad Hatter, Captain Hook and ‘Mary and her little lamb’ . . .yes a real lamb, and they interacted with and delighted children of all ages as they handed out jam tarts.

In its eighth year, Telling Tales in Balingup has established itself as an annual event with plans already underway for 2018. Festival organisers were thrilled with the response and next year’s event will include a film making workshops.

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