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Classes to cultivate talent



SHARING SKILLS: Cherie Curtis is running a creative writing workshops for kids. PHOTO: SCOTTIE SIMMONDS BUN270712WRT1

Write on: young Bundy authors set to soar

YOUNG Bundaberg writers will soon be soaring to greater literary heights with the launch of creative writing classes for children and teenagers at the Bundaberg Regional Library.

Creative Dragons workshop presenter and local writer Cherie Curtis said there was a definite need for writing classes in Bundaberg, especially for teenagers.

"There are some fine writing groups attached to some of the local primary schools, but parents have been searching for extracurricular writing programs, especially if their school does not host a formal writing group," Mrs Curtis said.

"There is nothing more magical than helping children enhance their literacy skills through the power of story and imagination."

A journalist for 15 years, Mrs Curtis has previously taught creative writing classes for children for the Queensland Writers Centre and Burnett Heads State School, and recently conducted a children's workshop at the 51st national science fiction convention, Continuum, in Melbourne.

Mrs Curtis is an award-winning writer whose Young Adult manuscript is now under consideration with two Australian publishing houses, while a separate children's fantasy, short-listed in the Queensland Arts Council New Regional Writer Award, has been requested by another publisher.

"The Bundaberg region is home to some very talented writers," Mrs Curtis said.

"Creative writing classes also help youngsters improve their problem-solving skills, but hopefully they won't think they're learning because they'll be having too

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What: Creative writing classes for kids and teens

Children's class (Years 5-7) will run from 3.45-4.40pm while the teenagers' class (Years 8-10) will run from 4.45-5.40pm

When: Classes start Thursday, August 23

Where: Bundaberg Regional Library, 49 Woondooma St

More info: Visit creativdragons.com.au or email cherie@quietdawn.org

Booking deadline: Friday, August 10

much fun.

Mrs Curtis said children often made lasting friendships at the classes.

"I'm grateful to the Bundaberg Regional Library for their support of these classes, especially in the National Year of Reading. Bundaberg children deserve the opportunities that city children often take for granted and we are lucky to have the best library in Queensland in our own backyard."

Bundaberg resident Sonya Hussey enrolled in Mrs Curtis' creative writing classes when she was 13 and is now using those skills to write a fantasy manuscript.

"The classes taught me so much that you'd never learn in school and I was always at my most motivated after each lesson," Miss Hussey said.

Bundaberg Regional Library acting manager Sue Gammon said she hoped the classes would create a new hub of young writers in the city.



Grace is ready to let her imagination run wild

CREATIVE STREAK: Grace Leis is excited about doing a young writers workshop with writer Cherie Curtis.

PHOTO: MAX FLEET BUN270712GRA4

FOR young writer Grace Leis, writing opens up a magical world where anything is possible.

The Year 7 student is all set to take part in the Creative Dragons classes and can't wait to pick up some new skills to complement her love of literature.

"This will be my first one," Grace said.

"I'm hoping to develop

better ways to word my stories and make them more interesting for people who read them."

Grace, who said her favourite authors were Roald Dahl and Brian Selznick, said she had already penned a few tales of her own.

"I've written a few short stories. I like writing action and adventure type stories," she said.

"I like writing those, they're really fun. I normally write them at home."

Grace said that while she had not yet come up with a theme for any story she might develop at the Creative Dragons classes, she would be sure to let her imagination run wild.

"It'll hopefully come later," she said.

Grace said she dreamt of

one day becoming an author and encouraged other kids to get their pens out and give it a try.

"It's a good way to explore your imagination and you can do anything."

"It doesn't matter," she said.

"Just get an idea and just do it. It doesn't matter if you're good or bad as long as you have a go."