

Program gets students reading



S: Karli Hayes, Josh Formosa and Isabelle Cindric (back).

CHILDREN at Heathcote have received some welcome additions to their bookcases.

Last Tuesday, the students of Heathcote Primary School received the first three of nine free books as part of the Books in Homes Australia program.

The books, which were chosen by the children from a list, cater to a variety of interests, Heathcote Primary School principal Keith Chambers said.

"They're suited for children from prep to Grade 6 — there's a really wide range," she said.

Included are picture books, novels, non-fiction books, drawing books, how-to books and special interest books.

"It caters for every child's interest," Mr Chambers said.

Bendigo Bombers coach Matthew Knights spoke to the students about the importance of literacy on Tuesday.

BIHA will also donate 144 books to the school's community library later this year.

Mr Chambers said the program was important for the Heathcote community because it meant the students had a much larger choice of books to potentially read.

Encouraging children to read could only be good for them later in life, she said.

"It was great to see the children get their books; they were really excited," she said.

"Hopefully, that will encourage them and keep them interested in reading in general."

The students will receive their next three books during Term 2.