



□ *ABOVE: Braves coach Wayne Larkins with Grade 2 pupil Robert Beedle and Isabelle Cindric, from Grade 1, and their new books.*

Coaching by the book

BENDIGO Braves coach Wayne Larkins this week presented Heathcote Primary School students with their second series of free books as part of the Books in Homes program.

The Books in Homes program aims to assist children to improve their reading and realise what a valuable tool reading can be. It also shows that greater opportunities exist in the future for those who build a strength in literacy.

Heathcote's primary students were enthusiastic participants at the informative discussion and presentation of their books.

The Books in Homes team visit Heathcote Primary three times a

year and distribute nine books in total to all student participants.

Heathcote Primary School is the first school in Australia to offer the program to all students by placing books in the home, hopefully creating a place where books can be nurtured by all members of the family.

Wayne Larkins has been a positive role model to children with or without reading difficulties through his association with the program.

The program was initially Sydney based, and Victoria was used as a prototype program. Without any government funding the Books in Homes program operates on a shoe string budget, funded by business and private sector donations.