



It's a great read for Westport students

BOOKS, books and more books were handed out at Westport Public School on Monday and there are still more to come.

Being able to choose from a selection of 144 books, the students at Westport have changed the literacy stereotype from geeky to cool.

The Books in Homes program, sponsored by Australia Post, provides the children three books each, three times a year.

"The program was just a trial this year but we have now signed on to sponsor Westport again next year," Port Macquarie post manager Warren Mason

said.

Westport Public School is the only school in Australia to be part of such a program.

"Westport has the local infrastructure and facilities to allow us to supply so many books and of all the donations and support we give, this program allows us to really see the benefits and the long term outcome."

Australia Post ensures a role model is on hand to give each student their literacy pack.

"We try to get role models to show that you can be good at sport

or another area and still be academic at the

same time," Mr Mason said.

In 2005 the school has seen Duncan Armstrong, Garry Dawson and on Monday Debbie Watson, Olympic water polo player, meet and greet them with their books.

"It is great to be able to do this. I do lots of school visits but when I saw this program I put my name down because I thought, this is awesome," Ms Watson said.

"I think it is wonderful that they can supply kids with books because there would be cases where families aren't able to provide them for their children."



Fun with books: Debbie Watson with Westport students Garth Rafferty and Ross Spence and their new books.