



# Cosima opens a new chapter

FORMER Australian Idol contestant Cosima DeVito is all ears when it comes to music but she extolled the virtues

of another sense at Westport Primary School on Monday.

The singer launched the 2006 Books in

Homes Australia program.

The program aims to improve literacy levels of primary school stu-

dents by giving them high-quality new books of their choice to encourage reading as a long-term habit.

Cosima gave every student nine new books and spoke about her own love of books.

She also sang her debut single, *When the War is Over*, then visited each classroom and presented awards at the school assembly.

"There is nothing more special than giving a child a book and opening their eyes to the world," Cosima said.

"The gift of a book is beautiful and it is great to be part

of something so positive.

"As a singer, reading is important to me — it can open up many doors."

Westport Primary School principal Mark Youngblutt said the school community was excited about seeing the positive effects of the pro-

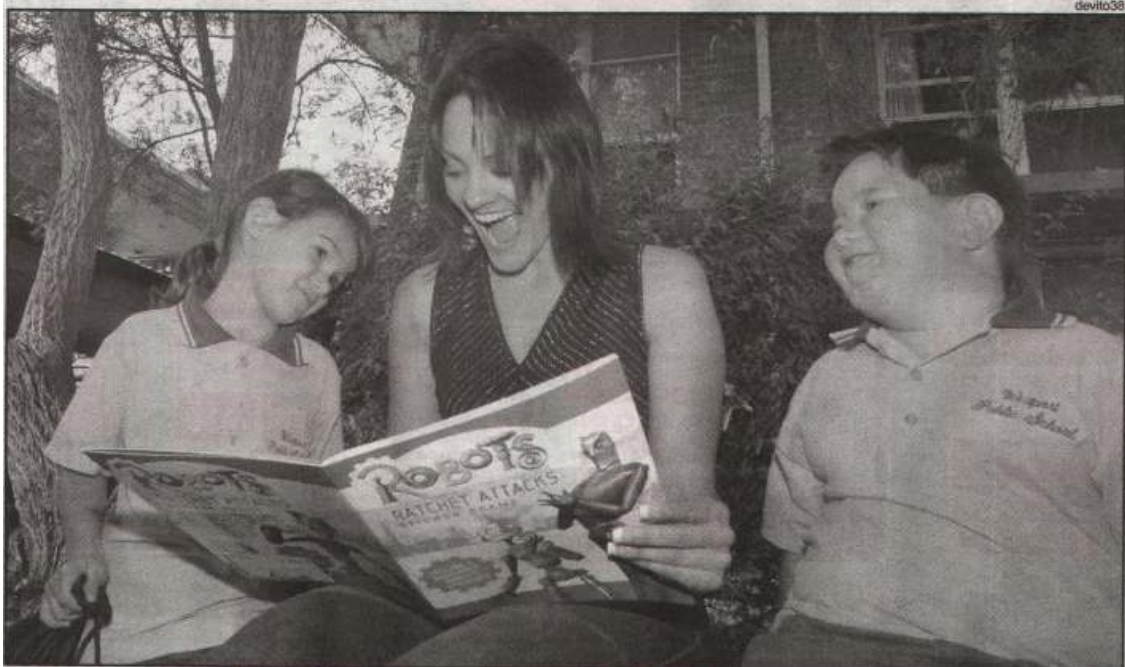
gram on the students' literacy skills unfold over the year.

"Last year when we were part of the program for the first time, we saw not only remarkable improvement to the reading ability of our stu-

dents but also their motivation to actually pick up a book and read," Mr Youngblutt said.

"Cosima was such a great role model for the kids as well because her success demonstrates how being able to read and write is to creative fields."

Cosima said she enjoyed her first time in Port Macquarie and flew back to Sydney late Monday afternoon.



□ Reading is fun: Tye Goodbee, singer Cosima DeVito and Tahlia Rance.