

Slam poet hits Scotch

Being a performer can help you get your book published, British poet A.F. Harrold says.

Hundreds of young students were dazzled by the author's word play at Scotch College last Friday during the Scribblers literature festival.

"How long did it take you to grow your beard?" a Scotch boy asked him.

Mr Harrold said: "It took a year to grow, then it stayed like this - welcome to puberty."

He was applauded after he read a poem about a calculator that took a long time to compute the answer to 1 plus 1.

"Next time I'll buy a calculator sooner," Mr Harrold said.

Children also laughed when they heard one of his books was called *The Boy Who Did PE in His Pants*.

"The first book I wrote was when I was 11: it was *The Quest for the Silver Horn*, a choose-your-own-adventure," Mr Harrold said. "It was awful."

He started writing poetry when he was young, went to uni, worked in a bookshop, and started to win poetry slams.

"I make a living from writing and the associated bits," Mr Harrold said.

"My slam poetry means I come from a performing background. When a publisher is looking at a manuscript you're at an advantage if they know you're a performer."

He said literature had become much more interactive in the past 20 years and he was happy to visit schools.

"When I was a boy at school



Captured audience ... A.F. Harrold with Scotch College students Sam Romero, left, and Joshua Hooke. Photo: Paul McGovern

I don't recall a single author coming to visit," he said.

Pete Allen, Scotch's teaching and learning director, said the school was delighted to be a venue for Scribblers, which was organised by FORM.

"We love breaking down barriers between schools," Mr Allen said.

"We've had 900 students a day here for three days, on top of our usual 1500 students."

Scotch staff drove buses to North Balga Primary School and Maddington Primary School to collect students so they could attend Scribblers.

Festival boost justifies levy

Claremont's recent *Off the Page* exhibitions in local shops attracted thousands of people to Claremont, councillor Jill Goetze said this week.

"We should show local businesses that we believe in them and continue to support them," she told a council meeting.

She was speaking in support of a levy on rates on businesses in central Claremont that raises an extra \$120,000 a year, an amount matched by the council.

Off the Page was to promote Scribblers Children's Literature and Arts Festival. It saw specially-commissioned

paper-related artworks exhibited in businesses across the town centre shopping precinct.

Home-based and international artists from Los Angeles, Berlin, Britain and Spain contributed works.

Ms Goetze said that extra money collected from Claremont's CBD businesses was well spent, and should continue for another three-year block.

"The amount we spend is relatively small - we should continue to invest," she said.

The council decided to continue with the levy and grants to promote local business.

Hip program helps patients

A new online program to help improve the recovery of hip replacement patients is being tested at Hollywood Private Hospital.

Called My Hip Journey, the online program is a partnership between the hospital and the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Edith Cowan University.

It allows nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians and pain specialists to create individual care programs that can be accessed by patients at any time using tablets or smart phones.

Care programs can be updated and personalised according to a patient's needs and contain exercise videos, fact sheets, forms and activities relating to their surgery and recovery.

Patients are encouraged to log in daily from two weeks before surgery to 30 days afterwards.

They can also invite family members or carers to log on to learn about their care.

"We're excited to launch this trial and hope the program proves to be a valuable tool for patients undergoing hip replacement surgery," Hollywood director of clinical services Karen Gullick said.

"We look forward to receiving patients' feedback and learning if this type of program enhances their experience."

"Another very special aspect of this program is that our own employees have made the videos which means patients get to meet the team before they come to Hollywood."

Eligible patients who are scheduled for hip surgery in the next few months at Hollywood will be invited to take part in the trial.

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