

# BRIT library staff are mad about Harry

Harry Potter mania hit the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE (BRIT) Library during Australian Library and Information Week 2002. The BRIT Library staff likened this year's theme of 'Libraries change lives' to JK Rowling's Harry Potter phenomenon, which has created a new generation of readers and library users. Children and parents alike have found themselves magically transported into the fantasy world of wizardry and witchcraft.

A great deal of creativity, time, effort and ingenuity go into preparations for Library and Information Week each

year in the BRIT Library. Under the talented direction of acting library manager, Narelle Stone, BRIT Library staff generate ideas, and then create a theme accompanied by authentic sets and costumes. The sets begin with detailed set design drawings created by Narelle. The next step is determining how many of the wonderful ideas can be brought to fruition: how do you make portraits speak or candles appear to be suspended in mid-air? A combination of years of experience in local theatre and a supportive team see all these ideas become a reality. Each year during Library and Information Week library visitors are taken into another world as they step through the doors of the BRIT Library.

The Harry Potter theme spilled out into the foyer and entrance of the library building where train sound effects signalled the arrival of Hogwarts Express at Platform 9<sup>3/4</sup>. Visitors to the library made their way past the Forbidden Forest and the black lake in the foyer where a small, wooden boat could be heard lapping on the water. Once inside, they were greeted by moving and audible 'paintings' including The Fat Lady, a curtsying girl and a man



(l-r) Back Row: Jenny McIntyre, Narelle Stone & Lindy Phegan. Front Row: Janene Smith, Kathryn Launer & Amanda Steen.



Photo courtesy of Bendigo Advertiser

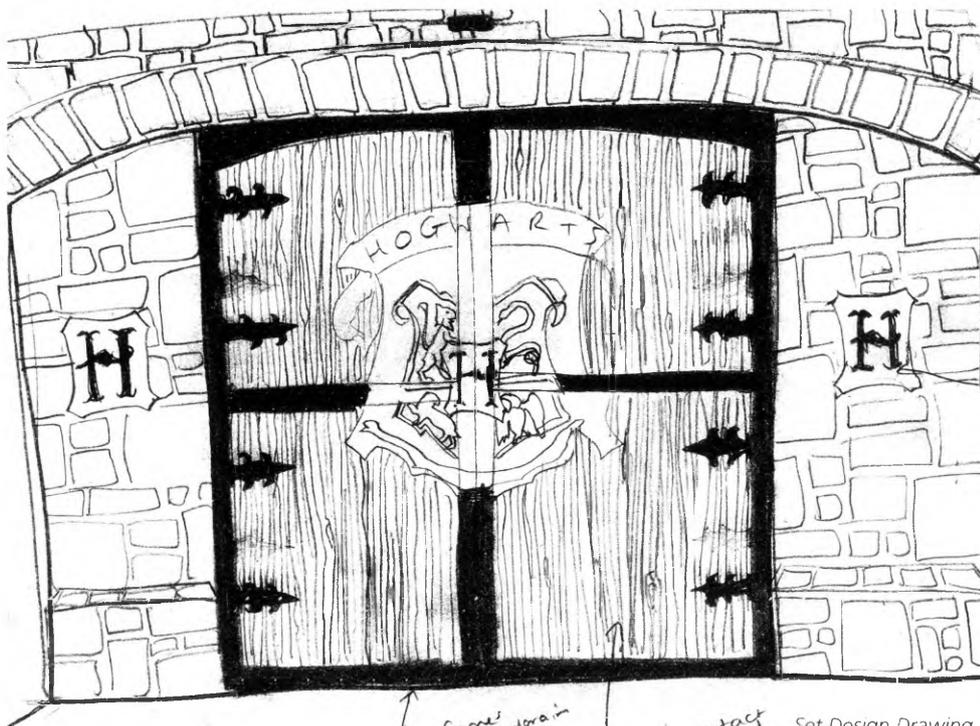
(l-r) Back Row: Michala Underwood, Jenny McIntyre, Narelle Stone, Natalie Rose, Kathryn Launer, Sheryl Bastin, Amanda Steen, Carolyn Anderson, Lindy Phegan. Front Row: Marion Cagney, Pam Dawkins, Janene Smith, Rosemary Rogers, and Cynthia Stringer.

welcoming them to Hogwarts. Broomsticks and a golden snitch floated in the air above the Quidditch pitch where a collection of Harry Potter books and puppets were on display.

BRIT students who successfully completed a short library quiz were rewarded with a small edible treasure. Primary school students from a local school visited in large groups and were given showbags containing Harry Potter balloons, crosswords, colouring-in pictures and material promoting the BRIT Library services and facilities and the websites of other libraries in the region.

The North Central Victoria ALIA committee organised a breakfast for local librarians in the BRIT Restaurant which was well attended. BRIT staff, Board Members, local librarians and other 'muggles' were invited to a splendid afternoon tea in the 'Great Hall' on Thursday. The universal appeal of Harry Potter together with the efforts of the BRIT Library team and supporters led to this year's event being dubbed 'the best ever!'

**Narelle Stone and Natalie Rose, BRIT Library**



cover door frames with contact - black gaffer tape - wood grain contact paper

Set Design Drawing by Narelle Stone