

A splash of **MAGIC** at the South Australian Parliament Research Library

It is not all hard work at the South Australian Parliament Research Library. In fact, the Friends of the Library, co-chaired by Peter Treloar MP and Hon. Emily Bourke MLC, run several events a year and a recent highlight was the Harry Potter themed reading evening for children. Members of the State Parliament were invited to bring in children from their communities and everyone dressed up in costumes from the Harry Potter series.

Participants of the event were able to eat a meal in the Old Chamber, which was made to look like the Hogwarts Great Hall. After food, they were guided through the corridors of Parliament, firstly to the House of Assembly where the Speaker gave a brief talk about the traditions of



Premier of South Australia, Hon Steven Marshall, reading in the library; Event participants 'dragging' the new Speaker to the chair in the House. Photos by Anna Graves

the House, and a few lucky children were given the opportunity to play at

being Speaker and Serjeant-at-Arms with the new Speaker being dragged to the chair as tradition dictates. The children were then given an example of a difficult decision made by politicians and were asked to vote on the question 'should mobile phones be banned in schools'.

Afterwards the event moved to the Legislative Council President's office where the children were encouraged to bang on his door as loudly as they could and called for him to come out. The President emerged in his robes and wig, and took them to the Council chamber, following which they walk down the Council corridor just to see if any of the figures in the paintings move.

Finally, the children were led to the library where the Premier, the Honourable Steven Marshall MP, and Peter Malinauskas MP, the Leader of the Opposition, each read to the children. The books were signed and distributed to two lucky children. All in all, the event was a great way to celebrate democracy and promote the role of libraries. 📖

Legislative Council President, Andrew McLachlan, being called from his chamber. Photos by Anna Graves

