

Reading program starts at Veresdale

BUILDING strong community bonds is a big benefit of a QuoCKa reading program introduced to Veresdale Scrub State School last week.

The reading program aims to increase the literacy levels of children while building a sense of community through the basic premise of having an adopt-a-cop and other community volunteers read to children on a regular basis.

Jimboomba Quota Club volunteers, Beaudesert Police officers and Veresdale Scrub State School students got to know each other during their first QuoCKa reading session at the school on Thursday.

One group, made up of students Gemma Teese, Georgia Coutts, Abbey Murphy, Lincoln Venema and Jake Hall, enjoyed reading

'Cars' with Beaudesert Senior Constable Grant Miers.

Once the book was completed it became the property of Lincoln, but no student will miss out with each set to receive their very own book after each weekly session.

The wider school community will also benefit from the reading program with a copy of each completed book to be donated to the school's library.

Quota International District 30 governor Janet Hughes said the interactive QuoCKa reading program, named so as an acronym of Quota, Cops and Kids, promoted the strengthening of community bonds.

"I hope that they'll have more respect and a regard for the police because they're actively involved, and know that people in the community actually care by coming to read to them, and



Quota District 30 governor Janet Hughes and Beaudesert Police Senior Constable Grant Miers (centre) read 'Cars' to Veresdale Scrub State School students Gemma Teese, Jake Hall, Lincoln Venema, Abbey Murphy and Georgia Coutts.

then eventually help their interests in literature," she said.

Veresdale Scrub State School principal Pam Ryan said the QuoCKa reading program was a great initiative that ticked all the boxes.

"It's just an excellent program - the community, the police and the children working together," she said.

"It brings the community into the school and that's really important, that we interact with the local community.

"And from the school's point of view as well, it's improving the reading of young children, improving literacy, that's our business."

Ms Ryan said she was

grateful to the Jimboomba Quota Club members and Beaudesert Police officers who volunteered their time to read to the school's students.

The QuoCKa reading program will be held at Veresdale Scrub State School each Thursday between 9am and 10am.