A poetry Lesson

WORLD-wide acclaimed hip hop artist and slam poet Luka ‘Lesson’ Haralampou has made a significant difference to the literacy and confidence levels of young people after a series of workshops at Chatham High School.

“We’re blown away,” said teacher Kylee Owen, on the impact he had on the students.

“What the kids have produced in a short amount of time is phenomenal.”

About 40 students volunteered to take part in the sessions with Luka, which included year eight literacy students, one year 11 student and a group of year five and six students from Lansdowne and Taree West Public Schools.

Luka said he discovered poetry about five years ago as he was writing hip hop.

“Poetry is just so raw, honest and vulnerable and one of the most powerful ways to convey a message.”

It’s an older art form and he said wherever he goes, a country always has a long history of it.

He said Kylee contacted him when she was doing a poetry course with the kids.

They weren’t loving it so much and she found one of my videos and emailed me asking if I do workshops”. He does and was happy to oblige.

While at Chatham High, he led students in exercises in generating text, talked about what they are passionate about, learned how to rhyme and how to edit poems to be concise, strong and powerful.

He spent five days with the students and the week culminated with a performance by students.

Kylee said the experience has given them confidence in their own voice.

Luka is the current Australian Poetry Slam Champion, co-director of The Centre for Poetics and Justice based in Melbourne.

He has been active in community development work utilising hip hop and poetry as a form of self-determination and raising awareness for marginalised young people for many years.

With an array of experiences under his belt, 2012 was a year to remember for this young poet.

He has appeared in over 150 events, workshops, performances, or panel discussions.

The first week of Old Bar sand modelling again saw locals and tourists testing their skills at Old Bar Beach.

The competition will hold its second and final round this Sunday.

Winners for the first round are:

5 Years & under
1st Lilly Scott - Lilli Pilli
2nd Savannah Grant, Hayden Grant, Seth Ellis - Taree
3rd Ruby Rush - Perth
3rd Jade Campbell Howard - Old Bar

6 to 9 years
1st Olivia Scott - Lilli Pilli
2nd Ruby Campbell, Isabella Campbell, Flynn Sheely - New Lambton
3rd Luke Carpenter, Ryan Carpenter - Wilberforce

10 to 12 years
1st Darcy Prior - Perth
1st Riley Rush, Grant, Seth Ellis - Taree
2nd Ruby Rush - Perth
3rd Jade Campbell Howard - Old Bar

13 to 16 years
1st Jessie Perrin - Tarago
2nd Liam Richardson - Camden
3rd Liza Perrett - Taree

Open Age Group
1st Matt Smidt, Samantha Cassidy, Linda Richardson, Lauren Gawthorne - Sydney
2nd Justin Braiden, Linda Braiden, Alana Braiden - Sydney
3rd Team Patterson - Old Bar

First place in the open age group were Samantha and Matt Smidt.

Equal first in the open group were local girl Alice Headslip with Linda and Mark Richardson and Lauren Gawthorne of Sydney.

Wingham – Central Park
Wednesday 9th January 2013
Zookeeper (Rated PG - 104 minutes)

Old Bar – adjacent to Rushby’s Casino
Wednesday 16th January 2013
Arthur Christmas
(Rated G - 97 minutes)

Harrington – Oxley Reserve,
adjacent to Skate Park
Wednesday 23rd January 2013
Pirates: Band of Misfits
(Rated G - 88 minutes)

A great family night out. Bring a chair or rug & snacks! MOVIES COMMENCE AT DUSK.

For more information phone Andrew on 0447 596 315