



FUN: Caren Trafford, Susanna Fung and Anthony Ngo at St Peter's Public School.  
Picture: FIONA-LEE QUIMBY

## Shocking truth excites young readers

By HANNAH EDWARDS  
EDUCATION REPORTER

CAREN Trafford's environmentally themed books often spark a shocked reaction in her young readers.

"Each book tackles a different environmental issue, such as worm farms and recycling," she said.

"A natural progression was to write about where the poo goes when it is flushed. The kids can't believe you are allowed to write books about that."

Trafford, whose books feature on the Premier's Reading Challenge book list, has donated 80 copies of her books to schools, including many in regional areas. With the gesture she hopes to help stock



libraries and spread the environmental message.

Her books, written for children aged from seven to 14, include *Water . . . The Amazing Journey, Where Does The Poo Go?, A Worm's Eye View . . . The History Of The World and World-Wide Waste . . . It's Not A Load Of Rubbish.*

Trafford said: "The kids can't believe that something meant to be educational is actually humorous as well. They love the images and love the humour. It's nice to do

something environmental that is educational as well."

She said books could communicate complex messages in a non-threatening, informative manner.

"It's difficult for teachers to try to teach kids about the environmental message without being too preachy. Books are a books clever way of [conveying the message]."

■ The Premier's Reading Challenge is a NSW Government initiative with principal support from *The Sun-Herald* and the Dymocks Literacy Foundation, and associate support from OPSM.

Is your school doing something interesting for the Premier's Reading Challenge? Send the details to [hedwards@sunherald.com.au](mailto:hedwards@sunherald.com.au).

## Premier's Reading Challenge 2006

Further information on the books and environmental packages are available on [www.planetkids.biz](http://www.planetkids.biz)