

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, conscious hip-hop artist and 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.



Luka 'Lesson' Haralampou with students Mitchell Whyms, Nathan Moore, Jarred Luxton and Griffin Humphreys.



Right: Luka talks to students during the workshops he conducted with students at Chatham High School. About 40 students volunteered to take part.

Old Bar sand modelling

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 Lily, Scott, Lilly, Bill;

