



Dragon rakes in plenty of budding bookworms

By KATELIN McINERNEY

AN appearance by St George Illawarra Dragons recruit Simon Woolford ensured there was not a reluctant reader in sight at yesterday's Books in Homes launch at Wollongong West Public School.

Australia Post sponsors the project and South Coast mail operations manager Peter Groeller was present to lend Woolford a hand.

Each student received a package of three new

books as part of the Australia-wide program which aims to improve literacy levels at disadvantaged schools and encourage reading as a

long-term habit.

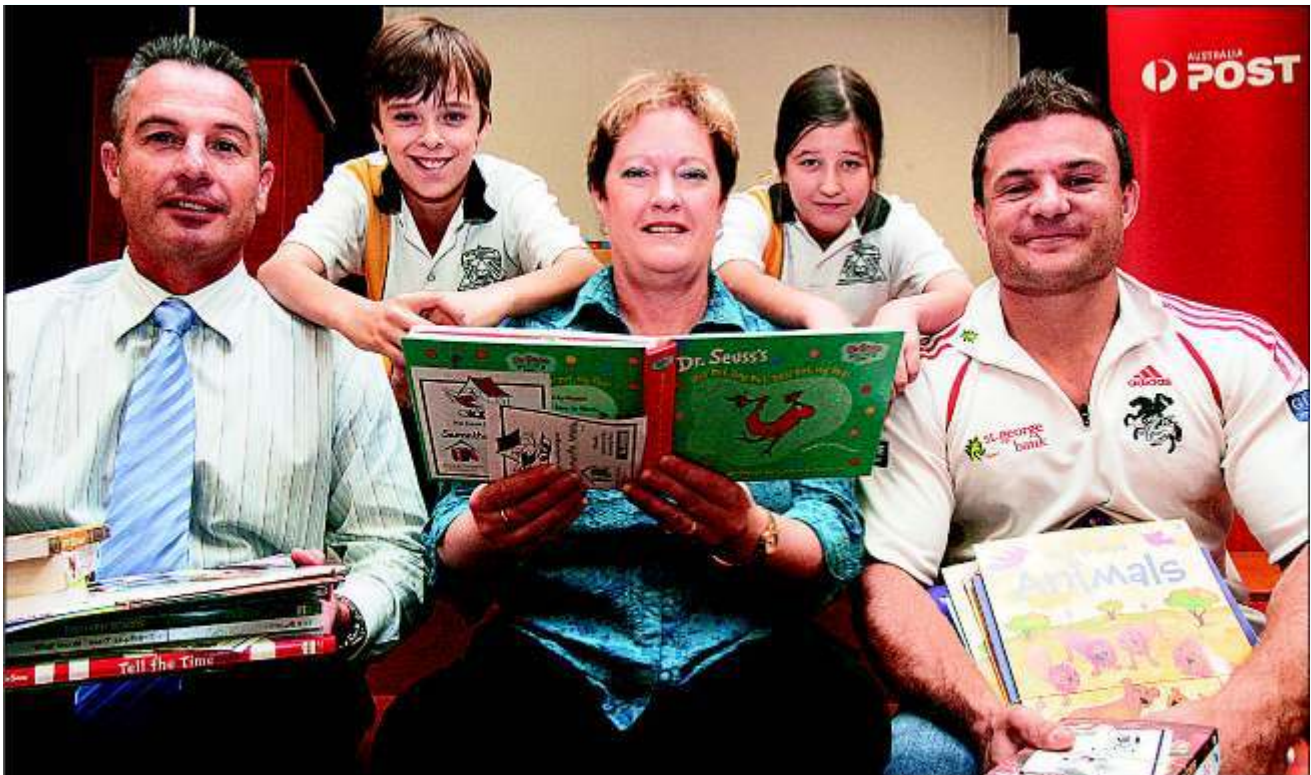
Woolford, who is nursing a leg injury and no doubt doing some reading of his own during his recovery, said being able to read was a skill for life.

"Reading was a way to relax for me with all the

sport I played when I was younger," the veteran hooker said.

Woolford said physical exercise was important for kids, but it was vital that children kept their minds ticking over.

He fielded a number of questions from the articulate youngsters, who seemed more excited about their newly acquired reading material than the sports star in their midst.



Read all about it: Australia Post's Peter Groeller, Wollongong West Public School's Jake Manea, principal Cathy Reade and Ciara Smith, and Dragons hooker Simon Woolford.

Picture: ROBERT PEET