

<b>Name of Library</b>	Mackay Regional Council Library Service	
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<b>Title of project/innovation/initiative</b>	<b>The 'Jane Eyre Look'</b>
<b>Date initiated</b>	August 15
<b>Date completed</b>	September 9

#### **The issue/challenge**

The library was fortunate enough to receive some double passes to see the latest film version of Jane Eyre, and as it happens, library staff have simultaneously been inundated with numerous head scratching teens seeking 'classics' that must be read over the school holidays. So, what common denominator could we find in classic literature (a good portion of it at least) that might inspire them to remember more than one characters name, and the quality of the popcorn? Playing dress-ups!

#### **Project details**

We all *know* the book, some of us have even *read* it. Personally I find the Brontes terminally dreary, which is perhaps the epitome of library blasphemy, but I can appreciate the lyrical language, historical settings, and oh – the dresses!

Thanks to some local theatrical links, we were able to provide numerous long flouncy dresses, bonnets, fans, gloves and capes. We also purchased a few simple costume items from the local party shop, such as a top hat, and fake side burns. (The boys were very welcome to come along).

We have a nice 'old' desk in the library, borrowed some extra bits of furniture and draperies, and so managed to create an early Victorian room in one





corner of the library for an afternoon. During that time local teens chose numerous costumes, and had their photos taken in various poses around the 'room'. They then selected the photo they liked best, which was 'sepia toned' via Picasa, and printed as a gift along with the movie pass. They were also able to take away the digital files of their remaining photos.

The results – well – the holidays are not over yet, so we've yet to learn if wearing a Victorian style costume has helped the students connect with the prose, but we do know they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Numerous (but oh so lady like) squeals of delight filtered through the Mackay City Library that afternoon. Always a good thing.