

Project 4401 short story competition launched

With Project 4401 well underway in the local area, project facilitator and author Emma Mactaggart is hard at work recording podcasts with Oakey State High School students and promoting the new 'Oakey's' short story competition which was officially launched last Tuesday.

All Oakey residents living in the 4401 postcode from primary school to adults are invited to get involved with the competition.

The stories must show the judges the impact of the drought on the author, their family or community and allow the reader to walk in their shoes for a moment.

Entry is free and is open in three divisions: primary school, high school and open sections.

The stories can be either fiction or non-fiction and must be no more than 440 words.

Several cash prizes will be up for grabs with a total prize pool of \$800.

Entries are open now and close at midnight on 19 February, 2020.

To enter, email the story as an attachment to em@boogiebooks.com.au with the subject 'Project 4401 Competition'.

LOCAL DROUGHT CONVERSATIONS

The soft launch of the short story competition coincided with the recording of sessions with local high school students who are currently undertaking agricultural studies.



Oakey State High School agriculture students Amber Kentwell, Jessica Heyze, Montana Wilkins and Tayla Lord record a podcast on the realities of living in a drought affected area with Project 4401 facilitator, Emma Mactaggart.

The students had discussions on the impact of the ongoing drought on their school and home lives and on their local community.

The conversations at Oakey High School come after the "Drought breaks, but we don't" recorded conversation between

Toowoomba Region mayor Paul Antonio, farmer Peter Garratt and former Queensland Farmers' Federation president Stuart Armitage which was moderated by rural advocate Mary O'Brien.

Recorded last month, this conversation is now available to view at:

www.project4401.com.au/

The program is organised by the Oakey Wellness Committee.

Project 4401 is an ongoing program aimed at bringing the Oakey community together and to have frank and open dialogues about the current drought situation.

Hampers delivered to farming families

Lions Club of Oakey member, Bonnie Teschner, delivered the latest hamper of non-perishable items to a farming family in the Silverleigh area recently as part of the local club's activities to support farmers in the district.

Ms Teschner said a collection trolley is stationed at aisle 5 in Cornett's IGA where shoppers can drop items for farmers struggling on their farms.

"This collection point is ongoing so be sure to help the Lions to assist a farming family by adding to the hamper," she said.

Any non-perishable and personal items can be donated to the drive.

Ms Teschner said when the trolley is filled the Lions Club of Oakey will make a hamper with the goods.

She said she has also taken another hamper to a farming family in the MacLagan area.

Pat WEIR MP
Member for **Condamine**

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