



NEWSLETTER

Volume 29 Issue No.3 December 2018

Season's greetings from the ASP



Image of penguin courtesy
Andrew Thompson/IJP:PAW

Rina Wong's Perth book launch

230 guests gathered at Scitech in Perth in early November to celebrate the launch of Rina Wong's book *My Mad Scientist Mummy* and to enjoy some science outreach. Rina describes the event.

The launch on Sunday night went really well. We had about over 230 guests at Scitech for the launch of "My Mad Scientist Mummy" (with over 100 children from 0 - 11+). From some of their feedback, they really enjoyed the interactive science activities including: "Feed Me Blood" (feeding malaria parasites using real lab equipment), "Achoo Boogies" (shooting snot out to learn about the velocity of a sneeze), "Little Scientist Corner" (precision

skills of liquid transfer and play-based learning", "Fishy Parasites" (fishing out of a pond to catch worm infested fish like the recent discovery in Perth last month by ASP member Cindy Palermo), just to name a few.

The Theatre Show was also well received with Seto the quokka lab assistant (puppet)'s quirky sense of humour together with the foaming, flaming experiments 'Dr Rina' did with audience participation, a sing-along and fireworks. I was most impressed during Q & A, I answered about a dozen questions from each session all (except one) came from young children asking questions ranging from how to treat malaria to asking how I became a scientist. We had a cameraman from Lake Joondalup Baptist College as well as a reporter from Seven News Perth capturing highlights of

the event. I also decided to hire an AUSLAN interpreter for a little boy who is completely deaf and relies on sign language, to help during the science show and sing-along. It was quite costly and unfortunately I had no luck with any in-kind support for an interpreter, but I felt it was the right thing to do, to make science accessible to all, particularly children with special needs :)

As a result of this, we have opened the dialogue with two hearing schools to do science outreach for children with hearing impairment. I'm learning to do my songs in AUSLAN!

