Who says good old fashioned books aren’t still stirring the hearts and minds of generation Z?

Last year thousands of bibliophiles aged 5 to 17 years old, showed they were well and truly committed to the cause by swapping their favourite book for another good read – and they paid a gold coin for the privilege.

Tens of thousands of books changed hands during the 2011 Great Book Swap challenge, raising over $70,000 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Now, disadvantaged kids, from babies to teenagers, living in the remotest Indigenous communities around Australia will soon receive their own new, specially chosen books. And hopefully a whole new generation will be switched on to reading.

Deb Dank, Program Manager for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, says:

“Thank you to the thousands of school kids around Australia who have helped make a real difference to those living in the bush and desert. Often these children don’t have access to books or libraries. They don’t have a local shop let alone a bookshop that sells the latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid or The 13 Storey Treehouse. Our Foundation works to not only provide the tools for literacy but also to make books available to kids and families who will really love and enjoy them”.

Deb Dank said that last year the Indigenous Literacy Foundation sent over 25,000 books to communities and schools across Australia.

“In addition, some of our ambassadors, including Andy Griffiths and Josh Pyke, travelled out to Manyallaluk and Wugularr near Katherine and to the Gove Peninsula to run story and song writing workshops with kids of all ages”, she said.

In some communities, funds raised by the Foundation went to the publication of books written in Aboriginal languages including Kriole (NT), Paakantji (NW NSW) & Karrawa (NT).

In addition, 13 stories from kids in remote communities were published in The Naked Boy & the Crocodile, the sales of which have raised further valuable funds for the Foundation.

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL HELP IN 2012?

READ FOR LITERACY AND SWAP A BOOK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR REMOTE INDIGENOUS KIDS & FAMILIES. REGISTER FOR THE 2012 GREAT BOOK SWAP NOW. All schools that register by 31 May go into the draw to win a class-set of Jeff Kinney’s Diary of a Wimpy Kid. All schools that complete their challenge and send in their donation by 1 December 2012, go into the draw to win an ambassador visit or another great prize. *See our website for full details.

Register now: www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au/register

* For further information please contact Karen Williams/Executive Director, Indigenous Literacy Foundation on (02) 96982884.