Authors in making

By Alicia Wood

SOME students at Connells Point Public School are way ahead of their age, discussing their future literary careers over playlunch.

A group of year 3 and 4 students have published a picture book called *Let Loose*, each contributing to the story and the visuals.

The book was published as part of a workshop by author Stella Tarakson, a former lawyer who now dedicates herself to writing fiction and non-fiction.

"They all had input," Ms Tarakson said. "They talked about how to create a character, how to describe settings, what the plot would be."

But it was not all smooth sailing, with early plot discussions getting off to a tense start.

"It’s about what would happen if a leopard was let loose at school. The kids came up with the plot, but originally they wanted to use the idea that the leopard ate the principal," Ms Tarakson said.

The students then created a more acceptable finale. They praised the program.

"It was really exciting," Stephanie Dimovski said. Luke Kontellis said: "The best thing about writing the book was thinking of ideas."

Ms Tarakson hopes to extend the program to different schools in St George and Sutherland Shire next year.