Children were spellbound

JUNIOR St George and Sutherland Shire wordsmiths went to Bonnet Bay Public School recently to find out who would represent the region in state finals of the Premier’s Spelling Bee. Caringbah North Public School pupil Angus Dong and Connells Point Public School’s Evan Watt-Smith quickly emerged as the top spellers from the region’s public schools.

Spelling Bee convener Sue Howard said Angus was the eventual winner but both boys were impressive. “They went for six or seven rounds, the two of them,” Ms Howard said. “They were really impressive spellers, they’ll be off to the state final.”

Nicholas Tevenar, 11, of Bonnet Bay Public School, said the spelling bee had been a nerve-racking experience. “I was nervous at the start and got a bit shaky and stuff,” Nicholas said.

The best junior spellers were Saachin Simpson of Bald Face Public School and Ryan Walker of Cronulla Public.

Students from 21 St George schools met on Monday, September 20, to choose more spelling representatives.

Can you spell these words?

FIVE tricky words from the spelling bee list:

Axolotl: the Mexican walking fish.
Chrysanthemum: a popular flower.
Chiaroscuro: art through contrast.
Ichthyology: the study of fish.
Synecdoche: a figure of speech in which a term is used in a range of ways, especially as part of something used to refer to the whole thing.