



FRENCH TAKE ON FILM

Opening night of the French Film Festival saw some local faces in the crowd, including (left) Alban and Peggy Fournier, of Alderley, and (right) Alderley's Lynelle Day with Leanne Winter, of Northgate. The French Film Festival continues until April 4 at Palace Centro and Palace Barracks. Visit affrenchfilmfestival.org to find the full program.



ARTS

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Writing takes flight of fancy

THE creative mind of Ferny Grove's Liane Barker has led her to accomplish a writer's dream.

The entrepreneur has been offered a variety of publishing deals after sharing the storylines of her fantasy trilogy, with the first book nearing completion.

The three books, *Zahrina*, *Khalinda* and *Jameille*, are based around a young girl's adventures in Prague.

They feature 15-year-old Jameille, who embarks on a journey with her best friend, Tom, unaware of the ancient prophecy set to reveal their true identities.

Ms Barker said she came up with the idea after her daughter toured Europe in 2010.

"I have a young daughter and it is about empowering young girls to follow their dreams," she said.

"I visited Prague and immediately had this connection and woke up with the first chapter in my head."

Ms Barker said becoming an author was not something



DREAM REALISED: Author Liane Barker is writing a fantasy trilogy.

Picture: STUART QUINN

she had imagined herself doing a decade ago but her passion took flight last year after a writing workshop.

"I never would have learnt

to write otherwise," Ms Barker said.

"But now, if I could write 24/7, I would.

"I'm passionate about help-

ing women to realise their potential and follow their dreams by setting realistic goals and believing in themselves," she said.

Childhood hobby leads to award-winning shot

A HOBBY born in a basement darkroom in the US has helped a Ferny Hills resident forge a fulfilling record of her travels around the world.

Marylou Badeaux's photo "Washing Day" was selected as a nominee in the 6th annual Photography Masters Cup in the Children of the World category last month.

The competition for both amateur and professional photographers attracted more than 8500 entries in 18 categories.

The photo was captured while she was motoring through the Mekong Delta on a boat in Vietnam in September.

"I saw a young girl doing her washing and she started madly waving as we went by. I waved back and was lucky to capture that movement," she said.

"Despite what we might see as abject poverty, the children, particularly in Cambodia but in Vietnam too, are so happy and friendly. They



Photographer Marylou Badeaux, of Ferny Hills, with her 'Washing Day' photo.

can't wait to wave and meet you and give you flowers."

The American-born resident was taught camera skills by her amateur photographer father in the darkroom he set up in the basement of their Boston home.

"I was only about five years old when I demanded to have a camera so he got me one of those Brownie cameras," she said.

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