Students delighted in tales of fiction

GIRLS and boys from TAS Junior School were immersed into the world of fable and fiction when they hosted a visit from prolific author Sophie Masson and illustrator David Allan this morning.

The pair, who are both New England residents, spoke about their respective crafts and the story behind their first collaboration, *Two Trickster Tales from Russia*, the retelling of two Russian folktales – *Mash and the Bear* and *The Rooster with the Golden Crest*. The book is also the first imprint of Christmas Press, a new children’s book publisher formed by the pair and a friend. While Masson has written more than 50 books for children and young adults, this is the first book that Allan has illustrated.

They spoke about the processes involved in creating and publishing a book and answered many questions from the students.

“*The best advice if you like writing or drawing is to keep practicing and never, ever give up,*” Ms Masson said.

Christmas Press will specialise in publishing traditional stories from many lands, retold by well-known authors and illustrated in a classic style reminiscent of the countries the stories come from.

**ENDS**

**Photo:** Conal Nicoll, Chloe Moore and Jack van Roy stayed behind to hear more from illustrator David Allan and author Sophie Masson about their new book, *Two Trickster Tales from Russia*.

_For more information on this release contact Tim Hughes on 0409 662 420_