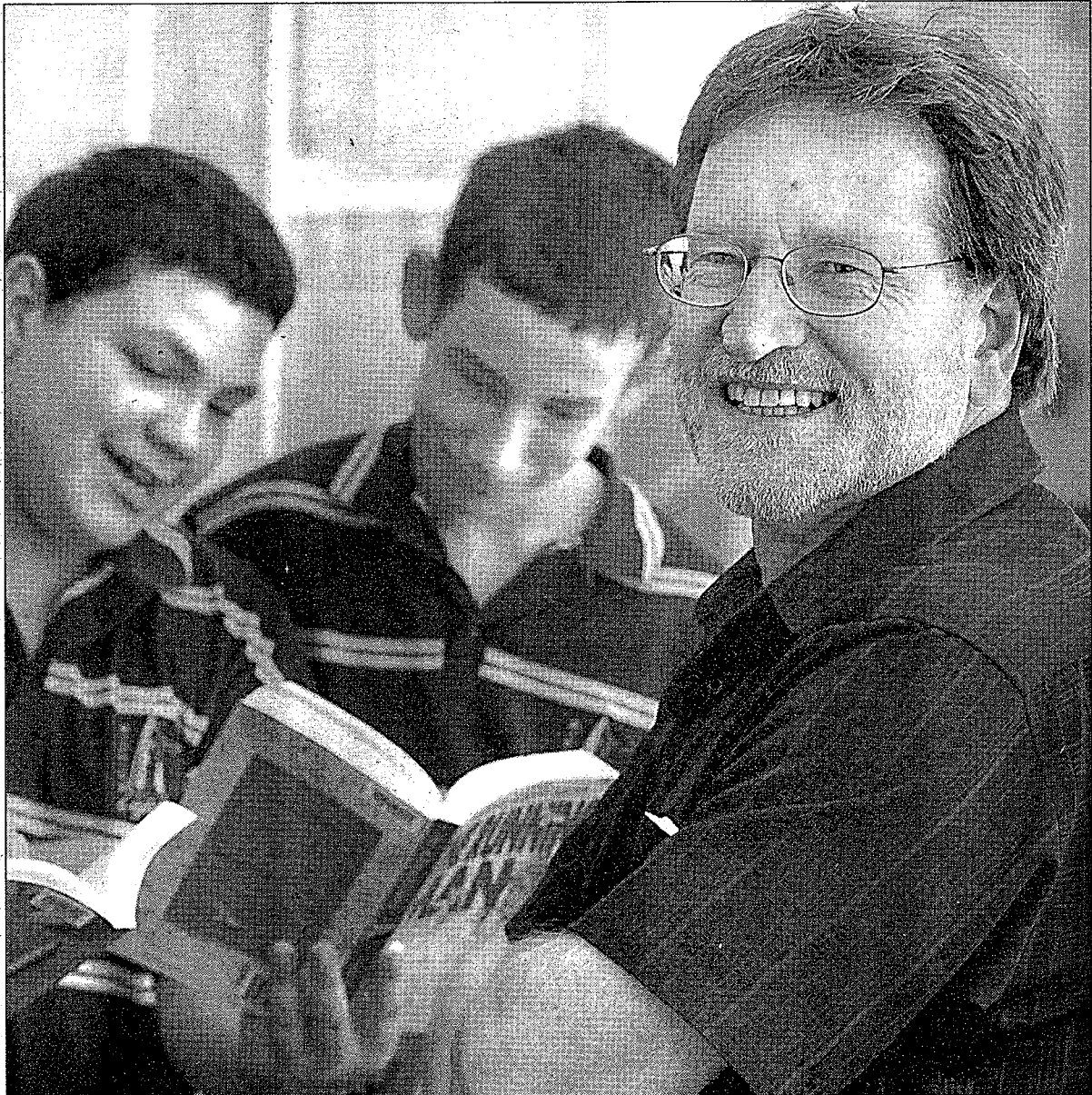


# Author wins with peace, harmony - and comedy



**LAUGHS:** Michael Bauer with students at William Light School yesterday.

Picture: CAMERON RICHARDSON

**DEBORAH BOGLE**  
BOOKS EDITOR

A LAUGH-OUT-LOUD comic novel about a boy who is bullied at school has won the national Children's Peace Literature Award for 2007.

*Don't Call Me Ishmael*, by Michael Gerard Bauer and published by Adelaide imprint Omnibus, was the unanimous choice of the judging panel from the SA-based group Psychologists for Peace which presents the \$2000 biennial prize.

This is the 20th year of the prize, awarded to authors of Australian children's books which promote peace and harmony through stories depicting the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Bauer, a Brisbane-based writer, travelled to Adelaide for the presentation of the award yesterday at William Light Reception to Year 12 School in Plympton.

"It's a lovely prize to win ... to get acknowledgement for promoting something like peace and harmony," Mr Bauer said.

Ishmael is a 14-year-old boy

cursed as the namesake of Herman Melville's hero in *Moby Dick*. Targeted by the school bully, he has the opportunity to wreak vengeance on his tormentor but makes a choice that, in the words of the award judges, "is a win for them both".

Judging panel convener Prue Blaikie said: "It had it all. It was funny, engaging, well-written and the main character, Ishmael, actively chose to behave in ways which would help rather than damage his friends and adversary."