

# Debut novel success

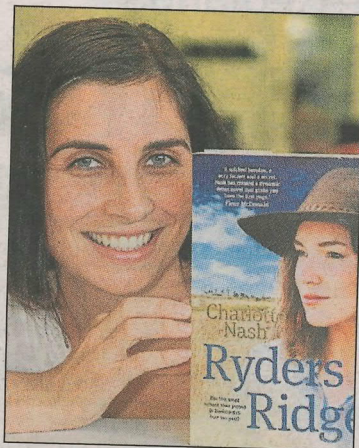
BY LYN UHLMANN

EMERGING author Charlotte Nash, formerly of Capalaba, visited Victoria Point Library last week to talk about her debut novel, *Ryders Ridge*.

The former Coolwynpin State School and Moreton Bay College student, who graduated in 1996 as dux of the college, entertained an audience of about 20 people with stories of her life as an engineer and a medical student and, now, as a writer.

Charlotte said after graduating from university with an engineering degree, she then completed a medical degree, but didn't register to practise as a doctor, as she identified more strongly with engineering.

She said she worked as an incident investigator, restructuring accidents, for several years before deciding she would like to be a technical writer, which led her to enrol in a University of Queensland writing course that included some



EMERGING author Charlotte Nash, formerly of Capalaba, spoke about her debut novel, *Ryders Ridge*, at Victoria Point Library last week.

Photos by CHRIS MCCORMACK

creative writing classes.

"There was this revelation that people actually write creatively as a

serious pursuit," she said.

"I had dabbled in writing, but from that point on I actually took it up as something to pursue seriously.

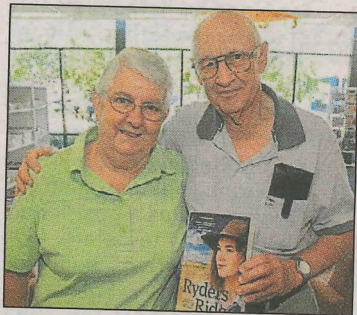
"That was about six or seven years ago."

Charlotte said she had since written four novel manuscripts, with *Ryders Ridge* being her first one published.

Reflecting some of Charlotte's experiences as a third-year medical student working alongside doctors in northwest Queensland, *Ryders Ridge* tells the story of Dr Daniella Bell, who, shaken after a tragic incident in the city hospital where she works, leaves the city to recover in the country.

There, she finds love, hope, secrets and rumours, and is forced by an accident to face her own secret that she left behind in Brisbane.

The first in a series of three novels that will be set in outback Australia, *Ryders Ridge* (RRP \$29.99) is published by hachete Australia and is available now in book stores.



JEAN and Brian Hedges, of Victoria Point, enjoyed Charlotte's talk and went home with a copy of her novel.

RIGHT: Ian Moore, of Capalaba, and Carol Goodchild, of Redland Bay, at Charlotte's talk about her debut novel last week.

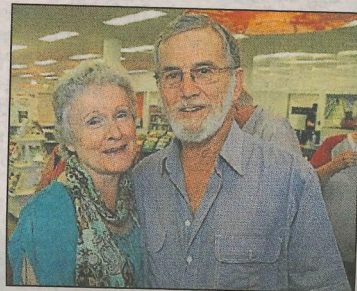


CHARLOTTE'S step-father Vic Blake, left, of Ormiston, Ruth Grant, centre, of Capalaba, and Charlotte's mother Isobel Nash, of Ormiston, enjoyed hearing Charlotte speak at Victoria Point Library last week.



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PAMELA and David Lee, of Victoria Point, especially enjoyed hearing Charlotte speak about her time in northwest Queensland, as David is formerly from that area.