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DEBUT NOVEL SUCCESS

1. OLD GIRL, CHARLOTTE NASH, WITH HER DEBUT NOVEL

Debut novel success

EMERGING author Charlotte Nash visited Victoria Point Library in April to talk about her debut novel, *Ryders Ridge*.

The former Moreton Bay College student, who graduated in 1996 as Dux of the College, entertained an audience with stories of her life as an engineer and a medical student and, now, as a writer.

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

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 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 Hachette Australia and is available now in bookstores.

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Photo by Chris McCormack

