

How the cassowary became the hero

By SOLUA MIDDLETON



Author Trevor Fourmile, from Mareeba in

far north Queensland, launched his first picture-story book, 'How the Cassowary got its Helmet' in Ipswich recently.

The story is about a bird who is scared and teased by the other animals in the bush of north Queensland, but soon becomes the hero cassowary after saving the rest of the animals.

The north Queensland (pictured) teamed with his mother Lillian to illustrate and create the book. He says the book is appropriate for young children up to the age of 12 and that there is an important message in the book for all children.

He says people shouldn't make fun of others because



they are different.

"The cassowary showed that he was special in his own way," said Mr Fourmile.

'How the Cassowary got its Helmet' was a winner in publisher Black Ink's inaugural writing and illustrating awards.

Mr Fourmile hopes the lessons in this book will filter into the minds of children. He also points out that some younger Aboriginal generations are losing respect, which was one of

the reasons for the book - to help get the respect back.

'Wanun nundu bijarwanda' is Mr Fourmile's motto in life, which means to 'live your dreams'. He believes that all children should do just that.

The book was recently 'tested' on Townsville youngsters, who loved the book, and Mr Fourmile says that some schools have already put orders in for their school library.

● Inquiries about the book from Black Ink Press on (07) 4773 5077.