

Moose fights bullies

By Lema Samandar

PORT Hacking resident Carly Patrick has always loved reading. As a child she would lock herself in a quiet room and read aloud.

So it's no wonder she has now written a children's book, *The Chocolate Moose*.

The 42-page picture book follows the story of a moose that is teased and bullied for sprouting chocolates from his antlers.

The 31-year-old mother of two hopes the book will help

boost the self-esteem of bullied children and lend them the skills to stand up for themselves.

"I was bullied in primary school for wearing glasses and in this book want to give children a sense of pride for being deemed different and that being different is a positive and not a negative," she said.

The Chocolate Moose is Mrs Patrick's first book. Her inspiration to write it came in 2002, during the second year of a law degree and while on a visit to

the Norman Lindsay Gallery in the Blue Mountains.

After buying one of his books on her visit, she began creative writing, in between writing essays, and so the *The Chocolate Moose* was born.

She intends to publish more books.

Lawyer gets the picture: Carly Patrick's children's book *The Chocolate Moose* is published by Better Day Publishing and will be out in April. **Picture:** Carlos Furtado



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