

Movie turns little hobbits into fellowship of bookworms

By **SEAN BERRY**

SALES of *The Lord Of The Rings* novels have more than doubled since the release of the film *The Lord Of The Rings: Return Of The King* on Boxing Day, say Dymocks the booksellers.

Andrew Nolan, children's books manager at Dymocks, said sales went up each time *The Lord Of The Rings* movies were released.

"It definitely pushes along sales, not only for those who like reading, but for those who find it hard to read," Mr Nolan said.

"They'll see the movie and go 'so that's what it's all about' and find it a little bit easier to read."



He said other novel adaptations recorded similar results.

"The book *Looking For Alibrandi* was quite a big hit, but we saw increased sales in the lead-up to the movie and then when the video and the DVD were released."

He said movie adaptations that were true to the books helped readers identify with the novels.

Mr Nolan said that in two weeks *Return Of The King* had sold more than both of the other two books in

the series had in a whole year. "All three of the books have at least doubled in sales across the nation when the corresponding movie was released," he said.

Books from the *The Lord Of The Rings* and *Harry Potter* series, as well as *Looking For Alibrandi*, feature on the official reading list for the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge.

The list is made up of more than 1500 titles, standing testament to the large number of books available for children.

For more information on the Premier's Reading Challenge, see www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge or phone 9886 7336.



WHAT'S HOT FOR 2004

■ As the man in charge of Dymocks' range of children's books, Andrew Nolan spends much of his time reading the many titles available. Mr Nolan gives *The Sun-Herald* his tips for the hottest children's books for 2004.

1. *Eragon*, Christopher Paolini - "That's my hit book for 2004, it's going to be fantastic."
2. *The Amulet Of Samarkand*, Jonathan Stroud.
3. *Trickster's Choice*, Tamora Pierce.
4. *Artemis Fowl*, Eoin Colfer.
5. *Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix*, J. K. Rowling.