



Dromkeen National Centre for Picture Book Art



Libby Gleeson AM

Dromkeen Medal Citation 2011

Libby Gleeson has had a life-long love affair with literature. She is widely regarded as an author and as an advocate of literacy and learning. Libby began her career as a school teacher in NSW and Italy but it was in London that she completed her first novel, *Eleanor Elizabeth*. Since then she has published more than 30 books for children and young adults as well as books about writing.

Her books have won many awards including the international Bologna, Ragazzi Award, Children's Literature Peace prize, Children's Book Council Book of the Year for Younger Readers, Picture Book of the Year, and Early Childhood. In all of Libby's books the stories are beautifully told, with richness and imagination. They touch deep human chords in children and adults alike. Her stories capture what it is like to be an immigrant, or the odd one out at school, or in a family. Her characters, male and female, are strong and positive and reflect a modern Australian identity. Some stories in the picture books are told with few words, a tribute to the real nature of story-telling and to the quality of the collaborating artists she attracts.

Libby has lectured at the University of New South Wales and at Sydney University where she is an Associate Adjunct Professor. She has campaigned tirelessly for a Children's Literature Centre in Western Sydney, has chaired the Australian Society of Authors, played a key role in obtaining Educational Lending Rights and is a Director of the Copyright Agency Limited.

For these and other activities she has been awarded the Member of the Order of Australia, the Lady Cutler Award for Services to Children's Literature, Meritorious Service to Public Education Award and most recently was recognised in the NSW Premier's Awards with a Special Award.

Libby Gleeson is indeed a worthy recipient of the Dromkeen Medal for 2011.

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