

THE LEILA ST JOHN AWARD

FOR

DISTINGUISHED SERVICES

TO

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE IN VICTORIA

2003

The 2003 Leila St John Award is awarded to Kaye Keck in recognition of her outstanding contribution to children's literature in Victoria. Following her work in early childhood education, Kaye became General Manager of Dromkeen where she further developed the pioneering work of her parents, Joyce and Court Oldmeadow, extending their vision.

It is due to Kaye's work that Dromkeen has been recognised internationally as a museum of children's literature, with full museum accreditation. Through the collection, and the attention paid to the conservation of original art work, Dromkeen celebrates our cultural heritage, at the same time its support for emerging illustrators helps bring both to a wider audience.

Kaye's love and knowledge of picture books enthral audiences, from young children to grandparents, in workshops, lectures and informal conversations. It is due to the work of people like her that *visual literacy* is now a widely accepted educational concept. Kaye's initiatives, such as the sculpture installations at Dromkeen, the travelling exhibitions and the Dromkeen float in "Nations on Parade", have achieved the museum's aim of bringing literature alive.

As a passionate advocate for excellence in children's picture books over many years, Kaye Keck is a worthy recipient of the 2003 Leila St John Award.