



Ann James

2002 Dromkeen Medal Winner

Ann James is responsible for a body of work that has engaged and delighted readers for many years. Her lively and affectionate designs and illustrations, full of positive energy, showcase her remarkable artistic skills in books from *Penny Pollard's Diary* to *The Midnight Gang*. The exuberance and freshness of her work, seen in such a wide range of illustrative media, entices readers of all ages to 'look again' at the picture book.

"The exuberance and freshness of her work, seen in such a wide range of illustrative media, entices readers of all ages to 'look again' at the picture book."

Early in her career, Anne worked as an illustrator for the Victorian Education Publications Branch and after eleven years left to become a freelance illustrator.

With her partner Anne Haddon, Ann established and developed a bookshop and gallery for children's picture books, at Albert Park, Melbourne. 'Books Illustrated' has become a feature of Melbourne's cultural life. By promoting Australian books through Books Illustrated, by holding regular exhibitions for new and established artists, by launching new books and hosting many other imaginative and well-attended events, Ann has helped establish an important centre for Australian children's books in inner-suburban Melbourne.

Furthermore, in a self-effacing, good-humoured and thoughtful way, Ann has consistently provided support for aspiring and established children's book illustrators. Her advice, given freely, wisely and objectively, has been invaluable to many practitioners in a profession whose exponents often feel isolated and overlooked. By convening workshops, seminars and conferences for illustrators and authors, at which her generosity is so very much in evidence, Ann has become a role model and a leader in the children's book world.

Therefore, for her professional skills, her support of others, and her vision, drive and energy in furthering the cause of Australian picture books for children, Ann James is the winner of the Dromkeen Medal for 2002.

