

Dromkeen Collection Art Gallery



Patricia Edgar

Dromkeen Medal Citation 2007

As the Dromkeen Medal Award Winner for 2007, Dr Patricia Edgar brings a new perspective to children's literature but one which is firmly grounded in the history of children's literature as honoured by the Dromkeen Medal.

Patricia Edgar's early life in Mildura began with books. Visits to the Mildura City Library led Patricia into a world of stories.

From this foundation Patricia explored the traditions of story telling in print but with the realisation that you had to be able to read to participate fully in the adult world of literature. For Patricia, television had much to offer her children and parents within the Australian context.

Patricia Edgar's experience in high school teaching, university study and teaching led her through many turns to the establishment of the Australian Children's Television Foundation. Patricia's driving enthusiasm was captured by Philip Adams in his inimitable style when he said "*I would regard Patricia Edgar as a sort of human tank. Patricia is a sort of Centurion in her ability to kick down doors and push walls over. She is annoying, irritating, relentless, drives people mad but gets things done.*" High accolades indeed!

Working with some of Australia's most creative children's writers, Patricia was a driving force behind the acclaimed television programs *Winners*, *Kaboodle*, *Touch the Sun* and *Round the Twist*. *Winners*, a ground breaking link between the printed and television mediums with over 200,000 books sold, demonstrated the market for children's books based on original television. In perhaps the best known series *Round the Twist*, Patricia and the Australian Children's Television Foundation formed an inspired collaboration with acclaimed author Paul Jennings – again, seeing hundreds of thousands indeed millions of families worldwide reading books based on the series.

Using Howard Gardiner's book *Frames of Mind – A Theory of Multiple Intelligences*, Patricia and the Australian Children's Television Foundation developed the *Lift Off* series which was to develop in children a capacity to understand, contribute to and improve the world in which they live. Working closely with the late Dr Garth Boomer, this program eventually emerged as a television program supported by a community program Outreach. *Lift Off Live* became a musical.

In all of her work Patricia Edgar has steadfastly maintained a focus on the universality of story telling as central to the lives of young people. Patricia's contribution stands as a lynch pin between the printed and electronic expressions of that which is central to children's literature. Patricia Edgar is indeed a worthy recipient of the Dromkeen Medal for her contribution to Children's Literature in 2007.

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