

Dear Colleagues,

Dromkeen, Moving Forward

This year, as for the past 30 years, Dromkeen has been bringing children and books together. However, at recent meetings of the Dromkeen Board of Governors, we have been exploring the next steps in the future of Dromkeen. In 1978, Scholastic Australia took over the responsibility of maintaining the Dromkeen Collection and its activities, including the purchase and ongoing maintenance of the Dromkeen Homestead. However, after 30 years and millions of dollars, Scholastic is preparing to pass on the funding of Dromkeen to others. On behalf of the Dromkeen Board of Governors, I have been charged with the task of seeking options for the Governors to consider as recommendations to Scholastic, as the Scholastic funding will cease soon after the end of 2012. Importantly, this is an opportunity to once again express my thanks to Ken Jolly AM, Chairman of the Board of Scholastic Australia and Dick Robinson, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Scholastic worldwide. Without their personal commitment to Dromkeen, Court and Joyce Oldmeadow's vision would not have flowered to the rare beauty we see today.

I have held initial discussions with a range of institutions including galleries, libraries and universities and the Governors are pursuing several of these options. Dromkeen is exploring partnering with such a body to enable it to continue to provide the experience and enchantment which has been the hallmark of Dromkeen. For the Collection, there are advantages to be gained with compatible art collections held in other places and the curatorial resources that such institutions may bring can extend the range and significance of Dromkeen. The key areas that we are seeking to assure is the recognition of the Collection as a growing entity, regular display of illustrations and prepublication material, and the signature activities which make Dromkeen so much more than just a collection of artwork. Of course, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to replicate the Dromkeen experience in another place but there are some real advantages which may come with relocation.

I would like to assure all schools that Dromkeen will continue to offer our educational programmes until the end of 2012 from the current site in Riddells Creek. Secondly, the Dromkeen Literary Luncheon, Friday 2 December, and the annual Dromkeen Society Dinner, 25 February 2012 will be celebrated with as much, and perhaps even more energy and enthusiasm as ever.

As we head into the next half of 2011, I encourage you to book a school visit to Dromkeen, book your place at the Literary Luncheon in December and at the Dromkeen Dinner in February 2012 in a celebration of all that is the Dromkeen experience. Remember also to nominate your favourite librarian for this year's Librarian's Award.

John Oldmeadow
Director

Dromkeen National Centre for Picture Book Art

ABN 64 861 137 227

1012 Kilmore Road Riddells Creek 3431

T: (03) 5428 6799 F: (03) 5428 6830 dromkeen@scholastic.com.au www.scholastic.com.au/dromkeen

