

THE MURIEL BARWELL AWARD
FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
AUGUST 2010

Awarded to Frané Lessac

When Frané came to live in Western Australia some 20 years ago, the children's literature world could not have known just how fortunate it was. She already had an established reputation as a book author/illustrator internationally and locally, over the years, her work has set the standard for high quality children's books. Her imaginative, decorative and apt illustrations have garnered many awards both here and internationally.

Frané has a strong commitment to actively promoting literature to children, in fostering their pride and understanding of their unique heritage and in encouraging their own artistic inclinations. She spends a great deal of time touring remote regions of the state bringing her works and her enthusiasm to children who would otherwise have limited access to such talent. She is generous with her time in local schools where her passion for nurturing the imagination makes her a popular visitor.

Frané works tirelessly with and for her colleagues, currently with SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) in her role as Illustrator Liaison organising the annual Writers' Retreat on Rottnest, and in serving on the Executive Committee of the Australian Society of Authors. She works hard for her fellow creators both as a mentor and in actively representing their cause.

Frané is highly regarded for the consistent quality of presentation in the numerous workshops she has conducted at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre and also with SCBWI. Over the years she has been a good friend of The Children's Book Council of Australia working tirelessly during Book Week, more often than not with children in the remotest parts of the State. Testimonials to her work recommend her warmth, her enthusiasm and her professionalism.

Frané's contribution to raising the standard of children's literature and in empowering the work of fellow creators is uncontested. To quote one of the conditions for the Muriel Barwell Award Frané 'has generously given service well beyond her professional association with children's literature'.