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ADS 050147

Margaret Hamilton

2004 Dromkeen Medal Winner

Since 1958 Margaret Hamilton has been in the mainstream of Australian children's literature with extensive experience in librarianship, bookselling, publishing, editing, lecturing and voluntary work, a career spanning over forty years. Her continued involvement and proactive approach to securing a million dollars for the CBC Awards Foundation is testimony to her dedication to children's books and their authors/illustrators in Australia.

Margaret joined the Children's Book Council of Australia in 1960 through the NSW branch and has served on numerous committees in various capacities, such is her drive and energy to achieve the best. She has served as National President of the CBC (1990–1992) and was instrumental in convening and organising the First National Conference in Manly NSW in 1992.

Among Margaret's other achievements are: establishing Margaret Hamilton Books in 1988; writing several reference books on children's literature; initiating and convening the Children's Publishers Group of the ABPA in 1985; and representing Australian children's publishing on a three-week cultural delegation to China in 1987.

Margaret's quiet, determined personality and her sincere and total commitment as a publisher of children's books help bring children and literature together, an indication that children's literacy is very much on her agenda. Margaret also worked tirelessly to help save Nutcote – the home of the late May Gibbs, now a major tourist destination for visitors to Sydney.

Margaret is a Consultant Publisher to ABC Books in Sydney, has won the prestigious Nan Chauncy Award in 2004, and is on the organising committee for the eighth national CBC Conference in Sydney in 2006. She is currently building a house at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, to have a children's literature centre for illustrators in residence.

Margaret stands tall among her peers in children's literature and is a most worthy recipient of the Dromkeen Medal 2004.

Ken Jolly
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF GOVERNORS, DROMKEEN