



## IPSWICH LIBRARIAN TAKES OUT 2010 QUEENSLAND WRITERS CENTRE AWARD

*Embargoed until Thursday 3, December 2009*

### Media Release

**26 November 2009**

The winner of the Queensland Writers Centre 2010 *Johnno* Award is Jenny Stubbs, a roving librarian and founder of the Ipswich Festival of Children's Literature, with 20 years experience in literacy programs.

Jenny has been recognised for her commitment to literacy and engagement through reading and writing particularly Queensland's south-west rural and regional communities.

Since 1995 the Ipswich Festival of Children's Literature has enabled tens of thousands of primary-school aged students to experience books through a series of free community author events. "I wanted to connect young people with Australian stories, through workshops and author talks," said Jenny.

"I'm proud that the festival now reaches over 30 low socio-economic schools in Ipswich and surrounding rural communities, who could never afford to bring authors to their schools otherwise."

Established in 2001, the *Johnno* Award is presented to an individual or group in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Queensland writers and writing. Drawing its name from the eponymous David Malouf novel, the *Johnno* Award recognises significant work within Queensland that largely goes unrecognised by the public and industry.

"Jenny is a tireless campaigner for children's literacy and has led exceptional programs that engage primary schools and children," said Queensland Writers Centre Chief Executive Officer Kate Eltham. "She has been a driving force for literacy in Queensland from her work on the Ipswich Festival of Literature, Children's Book Council of Australia, Australian Children's Book Week, Regional Book Week, the Reader's Cup Competition and the Author's Travelling Suitcase Program."

Jenny's work over the last 20 years in developing authors-in-schools programming has also directly contributed to economic development — providing paid work for between 40 to 50 Australian writers annually over the week of the festival at competitive industry rates.

Previous winners of the award include Nick Earls, papertiger media, JUTE Theatre Ensemble, Ross Clark, Liz Huf, Sue Abbey, Jeanie Adams and Fiona Stager.

The award also honours David Malouf, a founding patron of QWC who has achieved international recognition for his literary fiction. His novel *Johnno* provided something for the Queensland psyche that no other book had done before – it provided a sense of place within Queensland.

Queensland Writers Centre works to advance the recognition and enjoyment of Queensland and Australian writers throughout Australia and the world. From early 2010, Queensland Writers Centre will lead a new hub for writing and reading located on level 2 of the State Library of Queensland.

For more details visit [www.qwc.asn.au/AboutUs/MediaCentre](http://www.qwc.asn.au/AboutUs/MediaCentre).

*Jenny Stubbs is available for interview. An image can be provided upon request.*

Jenny Stubbs is a roving librarian who works to support more than small schools across hundreds of kilometers of Queensland's south-west region. As the founder of the Ipswich Festival of Children's Literature, she has been a tireless campaigner for children's literacy across a range of initiatives for over 20 years. She is the recipient of the Dromkeen Librarians Award and the 2009 Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for distinguished services to children's literature.

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