

## **Anthony Eaton - Testimonial**

Lesley has been a tremendously influential and supportive figure in my writing career, and particularly so during the early years, when I was working to learn the craft and to produce my first few novels. Lesley and her team at the Literature Centre (or the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre, as it was then known) were an intrinsic part of my support system, and their faith and belief in my writing – even during the periods where I didn't have much of either in myself – were fundamental in helping me develop my writing practice. For three decades now, Lesley's initiatives in the children's literature space have made an enormous difference to the field of children's literature, to literacy education more broadly, and to the careers of countless Australian writers and illustrators. Hers will be enormous shoes to fill, and her contributions to WA and to children's and young adult writing in Australia will be remembered for a long time. I wish her every success moving forward.

Tony Eaton