

## May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust Fellow – Dee White



We are delighted to announce that Dee White will be in Brisbane for one month from mid March as our May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust Fellow. A former journalist and advertising copywriter, Dee now lives with her husband, two boys and an assortment of animals in the small regional Victorian town of Monegeetta. Previously Dee has been considered mildly crazy for traveling around Australia and living in tents for nearly two years when both her sons were under three.

She has had three books published to date – *A Duel of Words*, *Hope for Hanna* (for upper primary school readers) and *Letters to Leonardo*, a powerful YA novel about a 15 year old boy's search for his mother which was published last year. Her latest novel, *Harry's Goldfield Adventure*, is due to be released in August this year.

Dee decided that she was going to be an author when she was seven years old. She wrote her first poem in grade two and read it out at school assembly. She does not stop writing until she gets it right. Her YA novel took her over seven years to write from start to finish.

While in Brisbane Dee will be working on an intriguing concept for a three-part YA thriller series with the working title, *The Chat Room*. The three books chronicle the lives of four young people who meet in a chat room – all with aliases and no knowledge of each others 'real' lives. But it is no coincidence when an accident leaves one with amnesia, one a paraplegic and one without a best friend. This trilogy will culminate in the revelation of devastating chat room secrets, and the accident victims will meet the person who has planned their slow destruction – and find out the reasons for such bitterness. Each one of them will have to draw on their greatest strengths in order to survive what happens, and move forward. Bonds, values and loyalties will be tested. *The Chat Room* will feature themes of cyber bullying, friendship and betrayal.

Dee will be conducting workshops at the State Library of Queensland during the week beginning March 15 as well as being involved in their Easter school holiday program. The support committee of the May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust will host an event where Dee will speak about her most recent writing experiences on the afternoon of Sunday March 28 in the new library at Enoggera State School (located at 235 South Pine Road). You and your friends are most welcome to attend. Please go to <http://www.maygibbs.org.au/news-events> and download your invitation or contact me at [mgclt\\_qld@hotmail.com](mailto:mgclt_qld@hotmail.com) for further details.

Judith Russell  
State coordinator  
May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust