

**Transcript of Colin Thiele's acceptance speech –
*Hall of Fame Award 2006***

Jane White (QLD Branch President): Mr Thiele, on behalf of Speech Pathology Australia, we'd like to present the Hall of Fame Award for Children's Language and Literature achievement, in recognition of your sustained and high-quality commitment to the promotion of language and literacy skills in children.
Congratulations. <handed award to Colin>

Colin Thiele: Thank you very much indeed.

Tim Czajkowski (QLD PA leader) & **Jane White** (QLD Branch President): <clap, clap, clap>

Colin Thiele: That's strikingly beautiful.

Colin Thiele's wife: It is, isn't it.

Colin Thiele: Well look, I will get up for a few moments. If you hold that for a moment. Well in the first place, let me apologise for my decrepitude <grimaced smile>, that's interrupted all your arrangements, and thank you very much for the award.

I'm honoured by it. Yes, I've always loved language and literature. Perhaps because I was bilingual as a boy and the two languages fascinated me – in the cadences, and the use of words and the arrangement of sentences and I started writing very early.

I wrote a big novel when I was eleven. Which fortunately I destroyed <wry smile>, and from that time on I've really written all my life. I love words and I tell kids when they write to me, "y'know, how do you do all this?." I say you put one word down t'other, but you better make the words do what you want them to do and at the end of the day, they know, you're very <hard to make out>, then you're tempted to throw them in the wastepaper bin if you're not using them.

And in that way, I've developed a writing pattern, and a writing style. I love the way in which language is formed and in dialogue. And I think with children, in an interesting story, an exciting story, dialogue is of prime importance, because literally in their ears, they hear the dialogue of the characters going on.

So because of all that, I've enjoyed writing.

I've *always* enjoyed writing and if anybody enjoys reading, then I'm doubly delighted.

Thank you very much.

Jane White (QLD Branch President): Thank you.