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INSPIRING, AWARD-WINNING AUSTRALIAN NOVEL NOW AVAILABLE FROM U.S. PUBLISHER

Australian author Susanne Gervay's powerful, award-winning young adult novel, **Butterflies**, has recently been released here in the United States by Kane Miller, A Division of EDC Publishing. This compelling and inspiring book tells of Katherine, a vibrant young woman who, severely burned at the age of three, faces not only the typical teenager's challenges of family, friends, and search for personal identity, but also the repercussions of her early ordeal. Katherine dreams of becoming like a butterfly – beautiful, free to flutter in the wind and explore her world. Her story is a moving portrait of the power of family love and a young woman's strength and resiliency.

Originally published in by HarperCollins Australia in 2001 and endorsed by Dr. Hugh Martin, President of the Australian and New Zealand Burn Association and Head of Burn Unit, The Children's Hospital, Westmead, **Butterflies** has garnered high praise. The book was selected as Highly Commended for Older Readers, *Australian Family Therapists' Award for Children's Literature 2002* and received recognition from the International Board on Books for Young People as an *Outstanding Book for Young People with Disabilities*. The US edition earned a starred review from *School Library Journal*.

Ms. Gervay admits that the writing of this book was a difficult 18 month task that "...challenged my values, taking me into relationships and experiences that would change me." She first did extensive reading to understand the nature of burns, grafts and scarring. She followed this with many hours spent investigating the Burn Unit in The Children's Hospital, including extensive interviews with burn victims and their parents to try to internalize these emotional experiences.

Once ready to begin the actual writing, Ms. Gervay set about her task to create psychologically accurate characters with all the complexity of real life, "... where disability and challenge are part of the fabric of life, but not life itself." Her goal was that "Katherine's life would show that disability does not separate survivors from the community, but unites them in the common bond of humanity."

Susanne Gervay is the daughter of Hungarian refugees, mother of two children, lecturer, educational consultant, and author of several highly-acclaimed children's books in her native Australia. She has traveled extensively both world wide and in her native Australia speaking at schools, book festivals and conferences. In 2009, she was especially honored to speak at the World Burn Congress in New York, invited by The New York Firefighters, New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia and Cornell, Weill Cornell Medical College and Phoenix Society for burn survivors. Ms. Gervay was recently awarded the *Order of Australia for Literature*. **Butterflies** is available from independent booksellers and through the publisher's direct sales division, Usborne Books and More (www.usbornebooksandmore.com).

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