



**SYMBOLS** ... Brisbane Girls' Grammar School principal Judith Hancock wanted something the girls could gender ever.

by M. S. 9/9

## Stained glass eyes to the school's soul

**T**HERE are two reasons why people are drawn to the windows of the Brisbane Girls' Grammar School in the city's Spring Hill suburb.

The views from the prime piece of real estate rival any in Brisbane but the crowds gathering outside the school library foyer are captivated by the windows themselves.

A series of 11 stained glass windows has been officially "opened" at the school, following a 14 year basking-in period by stained glass artist Warwick Black and Brisbane artist-designer Jennifer Andrews.

Up to 22 metres high, they represent a stunning artistic contribution to the art of stained glass design in Australia.

"The opportunity to design for such a large canvas is an artist's dream," Andrews says.

The windows will be a permanent focal point for the prestigious school, making the library one of the coolest places to hang-out at school.

"I was grateful to the Girls' Grammar School community for its support in sponsoring these windows," Andrews says. "They are a wonderful gift to the school."

The panels were commissioned under the direction of school principal Judith Hancock, who wanted a contemporary design that was full of symbols that the girls could gender ever.

"So I chose the eagle as the main symbol because of the sense of strength and freedom, and the unfurling butterfly as the symbol of potential, and the tree as the symbol of growth," Andrews says. Andrews, responsible for the design of the first gowns for female clergy in Brisbane, teaches art privately and through the Brisbane Girls' Grammar School.

— *Debra Reed*