



VICTORIA
State
Government | Education
and Training



Leigh HOBBS

2021 Annual Report

Michelle Nye
8 December 2021



President's Message

2021 has again been an interesting year, where we have continued to deliver our programs virtually and the realisation that a hybrid approach moving forward is going to be the new reality. The second year of being YABBA president has certainly continued to challenge me but knowing that David Linke is only a phone call away has been very reassuring. Throughout this year the YABBA Council have zoomed, planned, created and promoted children's choice and a group of dedicated volunteers I am continually humbled and very grateful to each one of you.

Again, the YABBA Team delivered an incredible Virtual Author Program in partnership with the Department of Education and Training. Our 36th Awards ceremony was phenomenal and with the support of Robyn Donoghue, Michelle Bentley and Adrian Beck it came together to a very professional standard. The live streamed Awards Ceremony was outstanding, and this year saw us begin a new tradition where the previous Graham Davey Award recipient awarded the new Award recipient. This year Felice Arena citation legacy to Sally Rippin.

The Council this year has been challenged to conduct all meetings via ZOOM again. We were very excited to hold our AGM at Hawthorn Library on 6th December 2021. At this moment we are recruiting and I am proud to say that Mrs Elizabeth Murray has agreed to step up and will take on the role of secretary in 2022. I am very thankful to Matthew Zbaracki who has taken on the role of treasurer again. Thank you to the whole YABBA Council who work tirelessly as we continue to amplify children's voice, choice, and agency across the Australian literature landscape.

Leading YABBA this year has indeed been an exciting time and the VAP sessions have been very well received so a huge credit there to Michelle Bentley and Robyn Donoghue. Once again, Abbie Cini has been able to pivot, quickly opening VAPs and other videos to anytime access when in lockdown. This year has seen a huge social media shift whereby each YABBA shortlisted title, creator and publisher was acknowledged. This initiative saw a rise in connectivity across all platforms. The YABBA vibe is set to launch across Australia as more schools join us as they see the VAPs as such a valuable event. May 2022 see YABBA continue to support schools nationally.

I thank each YABBA Council member for stepping up this year. I am sure we are all looking forward to learning from this time of remote online learning and incorporating the positives into 2021. Thanks again for your support in my first year as President.

Truly humbled to lead this organisation,



Michelle Nye
YABBA President

Council Members

The annual YABBA program is conceived and delivered by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Each and every council member should be proud of the work the council has delivered this year, without your hard work and dedication YABBA would not exist.

The 2021 YABBA Council included –

Michelle Nye	President
Vacant	Secretary
Matthew Zbaracki	Treasurer
Anne Devenish	Awards Convenor
Robyn Donoghue	Virtual Author Program
Peter Marriott	Member Director
Caz Godwin	Creator Support Director
Abigail Cini	Website Coordinator Social Media Coordinator
John Crabb	Hall of Fame Director
N/A	Awards Ceremony Host

2021 YABBA Winners and Citations



Picture Books - **Do Not Open This Book Ever!** by Andy Lee and Heath McKenzie published by Lake Press

Younger Readers – **Wolf Girl 1: Into the Wild!** by Anh Do and Jeremy Ley published by Allen and Unwin

Older Readers - **The 130-Storey Treehouse** by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton published by Pan Macmillan Australia

Fiction for Years 7-9 – **Sick Bay** by Nova Weetman published by University of Queensland Press

The Graham Davey Citation –

Sally Rippin

The Graham Davey Citation is presented by the YABBA Council to a book or person that through craft or contribution has made an impact on Australian Children’s literature. This is the only award where children don’t vote, this is an honorary award from the YABBA Council.

Last year we awarded Felice Arena this award and this year, YABBA is started a new tradition where the previous winner awarded the next winner.


We were so happy to award Sally this honour as she is adored by millions of readers across the world. Sally’s acceptance speech was fabulous as she made reference to the fact that there are all kinds of books for all kinds of readers. It was also amazing that Sally’s mother had worked alongside Graham Davey over 20 years ago to find out what books kids really like. She also made an analogy to food! Who couldn’t like that fact that a good book is like food! We need all types of food to survive.

The highlight of the acceptance speech has to be the challenge that Sally has put out to the young readers of today!

“If there isn’t a book yet that isn’t your favourite book, then I challenge you to go and write it”

2021
YABBA
Young Australians
Best Book Awards

GRAHAM DAVEY CITATION




Sally Rippin

2021 marks the 10th year that Sally’s books have been nominated for a YABBA.

Sally had two books shortlisted at once in 2018:
Polly and Buster and *Billie B Brown*.

Sally is Australia’s highest-selling female author.
She has written more than 50 books
and is published in eighteen countries.

Sally mentors many emerging creators
and supports numerous worthy causes.


Recommend
Read
Rate
Reward

All 2021 Winners received their citations on Tuesday 19 October 2021 via Steam Yard and was live streamed to WebEx and YouTube. The YABBA Council thank the DET for partnering with us to offer tech support to all schools and creators who participated in this online event.

This year we had 106 (61 last year) schools register for the awards ceremony, this equated to 4132 students of whom 2234 were Government schools. There were also 22 independent

schools, 5 catholic schools and 7 independent schools in attendance. This was a fabulous time and we sincerely thank all authors and illustrators for donating their time on the day, we are truly honoured to have them in attendance and for their ongoing support. Gifts are to be sent to all creators who donated their time and services to create such a unique Awards Ceremony for 2021.

2021 Voting

2021 saw votes come from schools across Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. However, many of these schools entered one vote. This highlights the need to communicate the voting process in a clearer manner in 2022. We had removed paper voting to help the process of counting however, may need to return this as some schools prefer this type of voting and this will be discussed at the Council Meeting in February 2022.

This year showed strong growth of votes from government schools, this highlights the success of the Virtual Author Program and that partnering with DET, YABBA has been able to reach nearly 8,000 children across the state and with the links to anytime viewing access has been even easier in 2021, as we had done so much learning in 2020!

As we move forward, we hope that the 2022 voting process will be even better than this year and we hope that 2022 sees DET and YABBA grow even more as we aim to continue to reach both regional and rural Victorians and encourage schools nationally. May we continue to Recommend, Read, Rate and Reward Australian books.

Sponsorship

The YABBA Council has worked diligently at collecting membership fees to fund the operation of the annual program. Funding has been used to run the website, disseminate publicity, thank authors and illustrators for attending the Awards Ceremony, and general operating costs.

YABBA received significant grant from DET that has enabled the VAP program to continue the VAP Sessions and enabling students to access more author session before, during and after lockdowns.

YABBA has also partnered with PCYC and have been selected to run a promotional page in the latest Streetsmart student guide. A book that Countrywide Austral and PCYC Victoria have built a strong relationship delivering the Streetsmart Handbook to young people all over Victoria. The handbook has been running for 15 years now and we are very proud to be associated with such a fantastic product.



Allen & Unwin
Billy Goat Books
Hachette Australia
Hardie Grant Egmont
HarperCollins Australia
King Street Press
Lake Press
Magabala Books

Pan Macmillan
Pantera Press
Penguin Random House Australia
Puffin Books
Random House Australia
Scholastic Australia
UQP

Membership Development and Engagement

2021 YABBA Members received

- A downloadable Shortlist Poster via the website
- 3 copies of the Winners Poster
- Sets of 2021 Winners Bookmarks
- Virtual attendance at the Awards Ceremony
- 10 virtual author visits they could attend in live time or watch on the website at anytime
- A process to nominate online
- A process to vote online

In 2021 all DET Primary and Secondary schools became members due to the DET grant. This has made membership challenging to determine. At the time of writing this it would seem that there are over 176 financial members on the 2021 YABBA Database. Creation of a membership data base will be developed in 2022. There are currently 2479 Victorian schools who all have free access to YABBA due to the DET Partnership.

Virtual Ambassadors Project

YABBA and the Department of Education and Training (DET) continued our partnership to delivery virtual author sessions to Victorian Primary and Secondary schools in 2021. With a 3 year agreement this has seen us successfully deliver a second year of content to the department.

The VAP program consisted of

- All Victorian Primary & Secondary Schools becoming financial YABBA members for 2020
- 10 virtual author visits of 45 minutes duration delivered to schools across Victoria
- Live streaming of the Awards Ceremony
- A 2021 Winners poster & bookmarks sent to all Victorian Schools

Thanks, and Appreciation

In addition to the thanks already expressed the YABBA Council also provides special thanks to –

This year we need to thank Australian Children’s Laureate **Leigh Hobbs** for the donation of his artwork.

Thanks Leigh on behalf of YABBA and all our members we acknowledge your amazing work.



Due to not having a real life YABBA Awards Ceremony in 2021 we hope to use Yara’s image for the official Shortlist poster in 2022.