



2022 Annual Report  
YABBA President Michelle Nye

5 December 2022

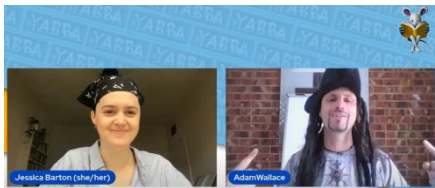
## President's Message

The YABBA Council continue to volunteer to promote children's choice, giving children a voice and greater agency in the world of Australian children's literature. As YABBA President I would like to personally thank the group of dedicated volunteers that made up the 2022 YABBA Council as your support of this organisation has seen you donate your time and skills and for this, I am very grateful.



With a joint REAL Awards Shortlist announcement made at the beginning of the year, it has been a delight to share this with KOALA President Megan Light. We have continued to deliver our programs virtually and developing a hybrid approach in the future will be important. This has been my third year as YABBA president and we have continued to be supported by David Linke with the serious side of voting where his keen eye for detail has again been much

appreciated by me and the whole YABBA Council.



YABBA has run the Virtual Author Program (VAP) in partnership with the Department of Education and Training (DET) since 2017. This year, our 6<sup>th</sup> year, has seen us take on more and more responsibility for the technology and we thank Andrew Goodone, Russell Fletcher and Jess Barton for their professional services in 2022. A very

special mention to our VAP presenters too as their work and dedication to this initiative has been again phenomenal. Thank you to Nova Weetman, Ozge Alkan, Serena Geddes, Hazel Edwards, Andrew Plant, Sally Rippin, Gregg Dreise, Sue Lawson, Aunty Fay Muir, Nat Amooore, Adam Wallace, Jules Faber and Nicky Johnston.

Our 37th Awards Ceremony was live streamed and could not have happened without the support of Robyn Donoghue and Michelle Bentley who have really stepped up in this area and are to be congratulated for their hard work and steep learning curve that they have successfully navigated. The fun squiggle-o-graphies with Jess Racklyeft and Ben Wood were delightful to watch. We all enjoyed Nat Amooore's *Right Way to Rock* musical rap which really got the awards ceremony off to a fun start. Epic congratulations to Belinda Murrell whose book *The Forgotten Pearl* was inducted into the Hall of Fame. This year there was no Graham Davey Award recipient and we hope to continue the legacy that was started in 2021 whereby the previous recipient rewards the next recipient. One very special new tradition that was introduced this year was the inclusion of Honour Books where two additional titles were honoured with citations in each YABBA category. This sees YABBA increase the four awards to a total of twelve!

The YABBA brand is in need of a revamp and as we set to launch across Australia, we trust that you will continue to support YABBA in 2023 with your membership. Thank you to the whole YABBA Council who work tirelessly as we continue to amplify children's voices,

choices and agency across the Australian literature landscape. Again, I thank each YABBA Council Member for their tireless work and dedication this year.



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 2022 YABBA Council included –

YABBA Council	
Michelle Nye	President
Elizabeth Murray	Secretary
Matthew Zbaracki	Treasurer
Anne Devenish	Awards Convenor
Robyn Donoghue	Virtual Author Program
Michelle Bentley	Systems Support
Caz Goodwin	Creator Support Director
Abigail Cini	Website and Social Media Coordinator
John Crabb	Hall of Fame Director
N/A	Awards Ceremony Host

## 2022 YABBA Winners



Picture Books – Pig the Monster by Aaron Blabey published by Scholastic Australia

Younger Readers – The Bad Guys in Cut to the Chase 13 by Aaron Blabey published by Scholastic Australia

Older Readers - Wolf Girl 6: Animal Train by Anh Do and Lachlan Creagh published by Allen and Unwin

Fiction for Years 7-9 – Always by Morris Gleitzman published by Penguin Random House Australia

# 2022 YABBA Honours



## Picture Books

- Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas by Lucinda Gifford published by Scholastic Australia
- Miss Kraken by Nicki Greenberg published by Allen and Unwin

## Younger Readers

- Weirdo 17 Spinning Weird by Anh Do and Jules Faber published by Scholastic Australia
- Ella Diaries 12: Total TV Drama by Meredith Costain and Danielle McDonald published by Scholastic Australia

## Older Readers

- The 143 Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton published by Pan Macmillan
- Funny Kid 9: Prank Aliens by Matt Stanton published by ABC Books Harper Collins

## Fiction for Years 7-9

- The Grandest Bookshop in the World by Amelia Mellor published by Affirm Press
- Edge of Thirteen by Nova Weetman published by University of Queensland Press

## 2022 Voting

2022 saw 54 schools participate in the voting process. We look forward to greater marketing and rebranding in 2023 to help make the RATE/nomination and REWARD/voting processes of YABBA year even bigger in the future. Greater engagement will rely upon greater marketing and we look forward to developing this as a committed YABBA Council.

This year showed a continued strong uptake from government and independent schools for the Virtual Author Program and that by partnering with DET, YABBA has been able to reach nearly 15,000 children across the state. We now need to ensure that the intellectual property of the VAP creators is protected in the development of a new members area in 2023.

We will continue to encourage the nation's children to Recommend, Read, Rate and Reward Australian books.

## Sponsorship

YABBA received a significant grant from DET that has enabled the VAP program to continue and these sessions have enabled students to access more authors and illustrators in real time or access them any time after registering.

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 information and publicity. YABBA thanks all authors and illustrators for their participation.

We look forward to making more partnerships with Australian literary groups in 2023.




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Allen and Unwin  
Hachette Australia  
Hardie Grant Egmont  
HarperCollins Australia  
King Street Press  
Lake Press  
Magabala Books

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

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# Membership Development and Engagement

2022 YABBA Members received

- A downloadable Shortlist Poster via the website
- 1 copy of the 2022 Shortlist Poster
- 3 copies of the Winners Poster in new year with membership renewal
- Sets of 2022 Winners Bookmarks
- Free 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 2022 all DET Primary and Secondary schools were once again members thanks to the DET grant. This has made membership easy for these schools. Creation of a new membership data base will be developed in 2023. There are currently 2479 Victorian schools who all have free access to YABBA due to the DET Partnership.

## Virtual Ambassadors Project

YABBA and DET continued our partnership to deliver virtual author sessions to Victorian Primary and Secondary schools in 2022. With an ongoing agreement this has seen us successfully deliver a third year of content to the department.

The VAP program consisted of

- All Victorian Primary and 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 2022 Winners poster and bookmarks sent to all Victorian Schools

# Thanks and Appreciation

In addition to the thanks already expressed the YABBA Council also provides special thanks to YABBA Poster Designer **Lisa Cain** for the use of her artwork and commitment to eight years of creative service.

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

