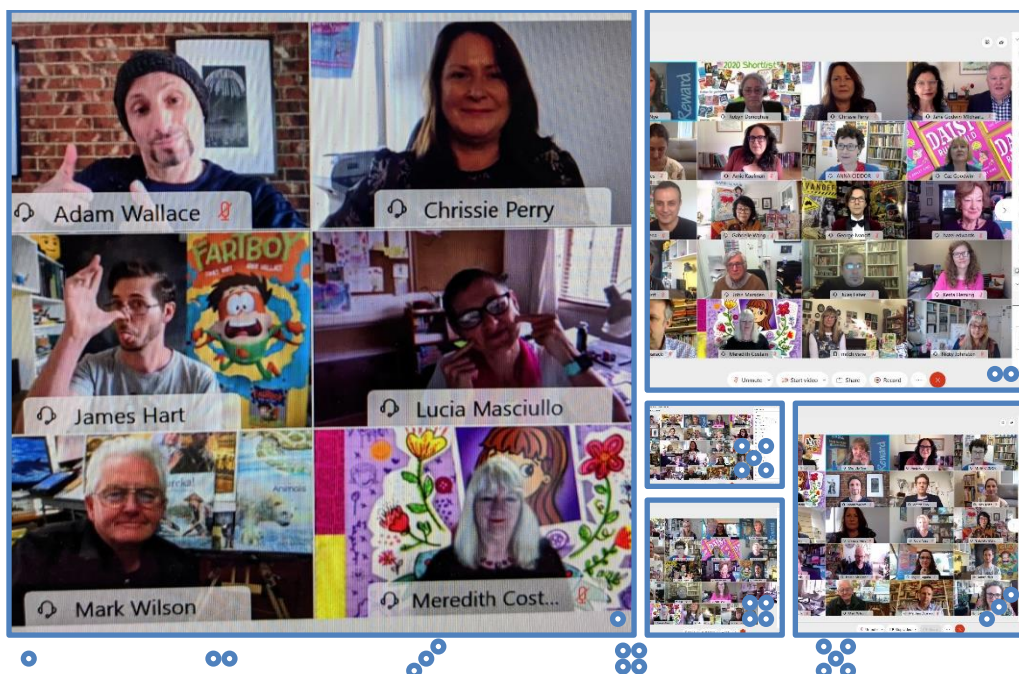




2020 Annual Report

Michelle Nye
14 December 2020



President's Message

2020 has been a very interesting year, a year of realisation that all things really were going to go virtual. The handing over of YABBA presidency was indeed challenging and the legacy David Linke leaves is huge. Throughout this year his tireless help and support has been greatly appreciated by me personally and for this I am very grateful.

This year the YABBA Team again delivered an incredible Virtual Author Program in partnership with the Department of Education and were the only Australian children's choice group to run a LIVE Awards Ceremony. Our 35th Awards ceremony was phenomenal and with the support of Robyn Donoghue, Michelle Bentley and Adrian Beck I think we ran a very professional ceremony. The breakout rooms were fun, and the authors and illustrators were all very talented in managing the different platforms, spaces, and technology.

I am very aware of the legacy past presidents leave and hope that Graham Davey would have been proud to see what we delivered in this interesting year. The Council this year has been challenged to conduct all meetings via ZOOM and I am very impressed with the organisation Joy Burlak has demonstrated in her role as secretary. I am very thankful to Matthew Zbaracki who has taken on the role of treasurer. 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 incredible workload, but an enormous reward to be able to remain relevant and offer programs virtually in a year where this was so needed. The YABBA VAPs were indeed ahead of their time. This whole program has been so much fun to work on and I encourage you to be involved in this in 2021.

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.

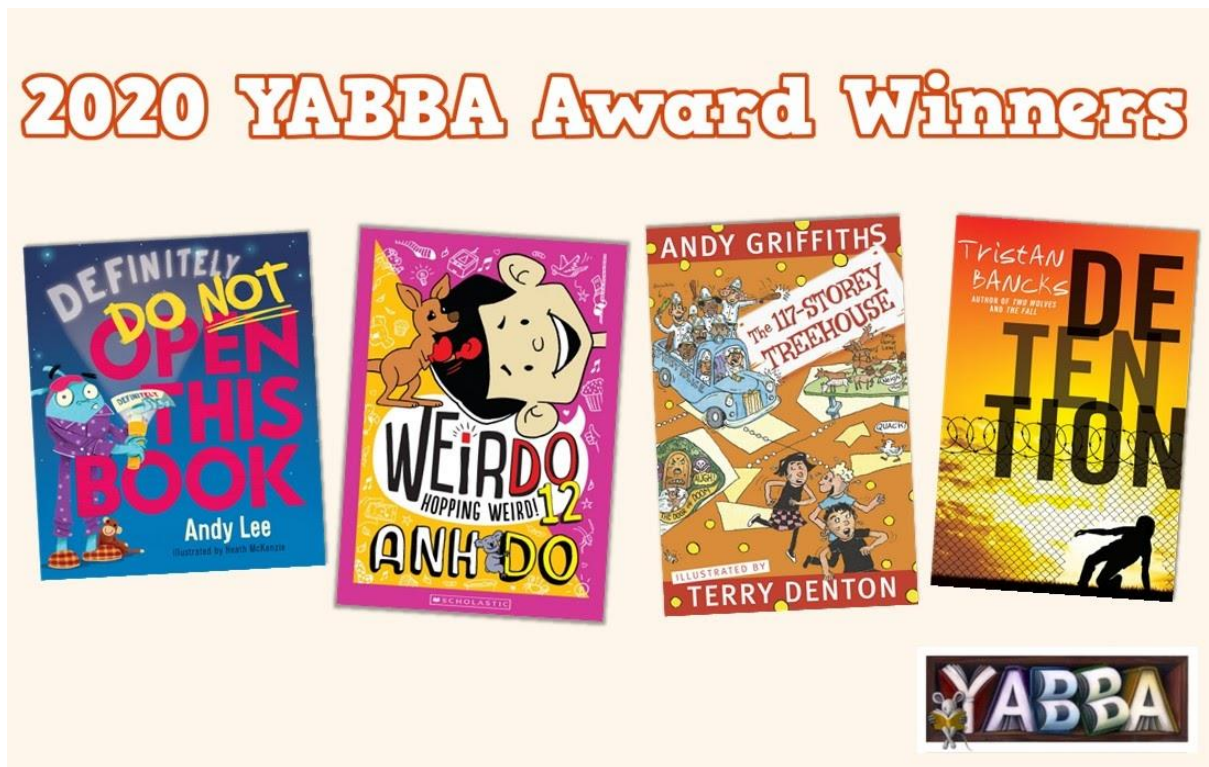
Thank you to outgoing Treasurer, Lynne Moller for her service between January and June.

Thank you to outgoing Secretary, Joy Burlak for her service as firstly the Awards Ceremony host in 2018 and then as a YABBA council member in 2019 and then her dedication and eye for detail as YABBA Secretary in 2019. I personally want to pass on a big thank you for all the work and time put into making very clear minutes and communications that have always been timely, transparent, and well written.

The 2020 YABBA Council included –

Michelle Nye	President
Joy Burlak	Secretary
Lynne Moller	Treasurer
Matthew Zbaracki	
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

2020 YABBA Winners and Citations



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

Younger Readers - **WeirDo 12: Hopping Weird!** by Anh Do and Jules Faber published by Scholastic Australia

Older Readers - **The 117-Storey Treehouse** by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton published by Pan Macmillan

Fiction for Years 7-9 - **Detention** by Tristan Bancks published by Penguin Random House Australia

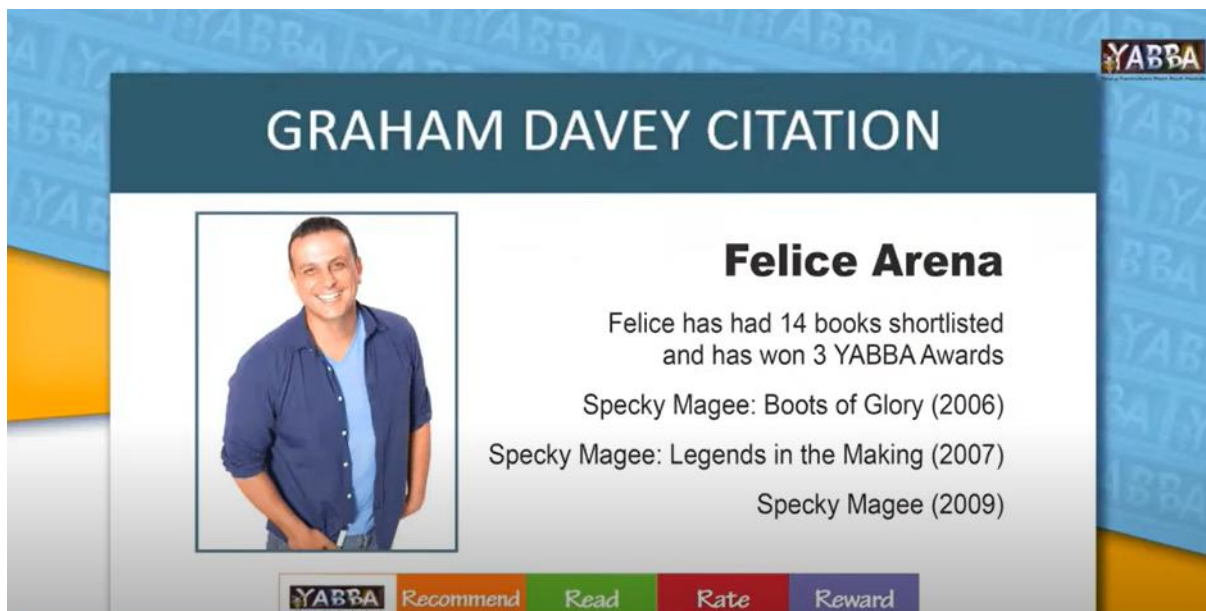
The Graham Davey Citation –

Felice Arena

This year we acknowledged Felice Arena for his amazing body of work as an author, actor, speaker, TV presenter and playwright. Felice has had over 14 books shortlisted and has won 3 times in the YABBA Awards

- Specky Magee: Boots of Glory (2006)
- Specky Magee: Legends in the Making (2007)
- Specky Magee (2009)

Felice has also had been entered into the Hall of Fame twice.



All 2020 Winners received their citations on Tuesday 27 October 2020 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 due to having an online Awards Ceremony we were able to open this event to more schools. We had 61 schools register for the awards ceremony, this included both regional and rural across, After the awards ceremony the children from 13 government schools, 5 catholic schools and 9 independent schools were able to engage with 38 creators. 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.

Felice ARENA	Caz GOODWIN	Lucia MASCIULLO
Tristan BANCKS	Andy GRIFFITHS	John MARSDEN
Adrian BECK	Jill GRIFFITHS	Alex MILES
Anna CIDDOR	Tim HARRIS	Belinda MURRELL
Sherryl CLARK	Jacqueline HARVEY	Chrissie PERRY
Caz GOODWIN	James HART	Sally RIPPIN
Meredith COSTAIN	George IVANHOFF	Mitch VANE
Terry DENTON	Nicky JOHNSTON	Coral VASS
Hazel EDWARDS	Amie KAUFMAN	Michael WAGNER
Jules FABER	Ingrid LAGUNA	Adam WALLACE
Kesta FLEMING	Andy LEE	Gabrielle WANG
Marjory GARDNER	Heath MACKENZIE	Mark WILSON
Jane GODWIN		

Authors and Illustrators highlighted in bold text were shortlisted in 2020

2020 Voting

2020 saw votes come from 167 schools across Victoria and Tasmania. However, many of these schools entered one vote. This highlights the need to communicate the voting process in a clearer manner in 2021. 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.

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 2020, the year of the YABBA VAP really going virtual!

As we move forward, we hope that the 2021 voting process will be even better than this year and we hope that 2021 sees DET and YABBA grow even more as we aim to reach both regional and rural Victorians and encourage them to Recommend, Read, Rate and Reward Australian books.

We received votes from **5,309** children in 2020.

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 extend to Mega VAP Sessions enhancing the access to author session during the pandemic.



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

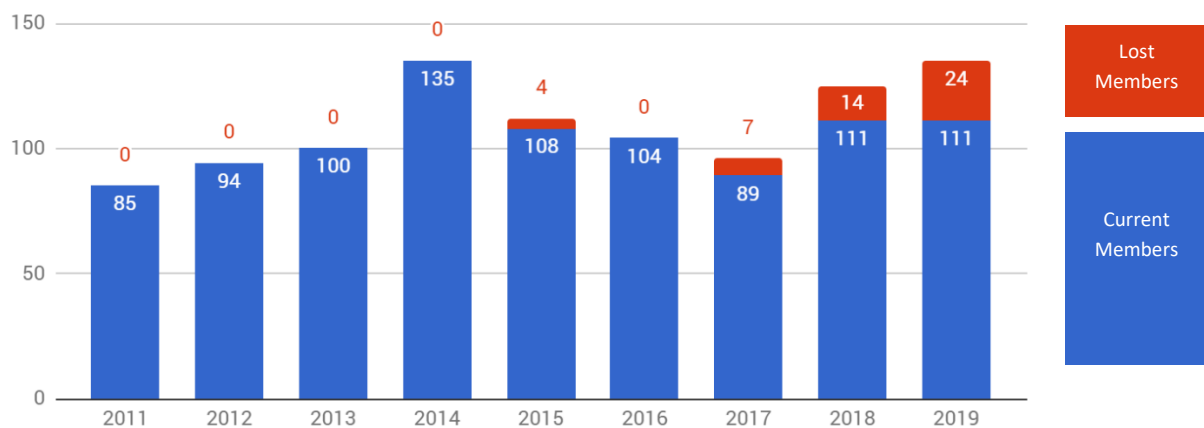
Membership Development and Engagement

2020 YABBA Members received

- A downloadable Shortlist Poster via the website
- 3 copies of the Winners Poster
- Sets of 2020 Winners Bookmarks
- Virtual attendance at the Awards Ceremony
- Regular book prizes across the year
- 10 virtual author visits they could attend
- A process to nominate online
- A process to vote online

In 2020 all DET Primary and Secondary schools became members due to the grant. This has made membership challenging to determine. At the time of writing this it would seem that there are 95 financial members on the 2020 YABBA Database. This is an important area to work on in 2021 and beyond.

Financial Members



Virtual Ambassadors Project

YABBA and the Department of Education and Training (DET) continued our partnership to delivery virtual author sessions to Victorian schools.

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 2020 Winners poster & bookmarks sent to all Victorian Primary Schools

Thanks, and Appreciation

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

Mr Heath McKenzie for kindly and generously donating his artwork to produce the Shortlist Poster.



Due to not having a Host School in 2020 we used Heath McKenzie's image for the official Invitation.