



Ann James
121 Cobden Street
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

28 August 2024

Dear Ann,

ASA Medal Winner 2024

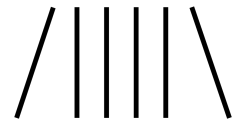
I write on behalf of the Board of the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) to warmly congratulate you. The Board has very enthusiastically selected you as the recipient of the ASA Medal for 2024!

The Australian Society of Authors biennially awards the ASA Medal to an Australian author or illustrator who has made an outstanding contribution to Australian culture, as both a creator and an advocate. Not only will the recipient have a significant body of work but will have strived to encourage and support their peers.

The Board has based their decision on the fact that you are one of Australia's most prolific and accomplished illustrators, with over 70 award-winning books illustrated. Beyond your acclaimed publishing career, you have given back to literature generously and are unparalleled in your advocacy and mentorship of Australian illustrators. You established the Society of Book Illustrators (SoBI) with David Wong and Terry Denton in 1988, and then coordinated SoBI until the merger with the ASA in 1996. You then proceeded to serve on the ASA board for a generous 20 years, fighting long and hard for Educational Lending Rights, establishing the ASA Style File, and frequently sharing your expertise through portfolio assessments and professional development events.

In collaboration with Ann Haddon, you have established Books Illustrated, to elevate and celebrate the art of picture book illustration. You were a founding director on the Board of the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation for 10 years. As a mentor, you have supported some of Australia's most successful new illustrators, including Sadami Konchi and Karen Briggs. You have worked tirelessly with the Indigenous Literacy Foundation as an ambassador, running writing and illustration programs and aiding the publication of picture books in remote Indigenous communities. Your reach has been international, helping to establish the Hello! from Australia publishing collecting stand at the Bologna Bookfair, advancing the international profile of Australian authors and illustrators.

I think it is safe to say that the ASA represents illustrators thanks to you, Ann. You have been pivotal in raising the profile and position of illustrators as book creators, ensuring they are properly acknowledged for their work and building a viable professional environment for many artists.



The ASA would like to formally recognise and pay tribute to your decades of contribution and achievements by awarding you the ASA Medal.

To receive the medal, I am delighted to invite you to attend the Colin Simpson Memorial Keynote on **Wednesday, 13 November 2024 at 6pm** at The Mint in Sydney CBD. The ASA would be pleased to cover the cost of your travel and accommodation Ann.

About the Colin Simpson Memorial Keynote

Each year the ASA holds the Colin Simpson Memorial event to commemorate journalist and author Colin Simpson, a founding member of the ASA, the driving force behind the introduction of the Public Lending Right in 1975, and an accomplished writer and television host. In keeping with its namesake this event is intended to be thought-provoking and stimulating, and this year the Keynote address will be delivered by James Bradley.

It's intended to be a night of celebration as, in addition to the delivery of the Colin Simpson Memorial Keynote, we are looking forward to awarding you the ASA Medal for 2024, and announcing the winner of the 2024 Barbara Jefferis Award.

I do hope you are available; please let me know if you can travel to Sydney to attend the event and the ASA team can assist make those arrangements.

Thank you Ann for your stunning contribution to Australian literary culture and for your generous support of the Australian illustrating community.

With warmest congratulations,

Sophie Cunningham
Chair