

NIGHT OF NIGHTS



The 17th annual Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIA) surpassed all expectations as a first-time author took out the Gold ABIA and an emotional performance was delivered by Australian rock icon, Jimmy Barnes.

The event in late May at the Art Gallery of New South Wales was hosted by comedian and writer Ben Jenkins (from ABC TV's *The Checkout*) and opened by nominee, author and journalist Stan Grant, who delivered an address in celebration of Australian stories.

The night showcased the extraordinary power of Australian stories that are taking the world by storm.

Celebrating Australian stories in all their forms was

the focus of the night, from the storytelling traditions of Indigenous communities that have been passed on for thousands of years, to great Australian books published in the 21st century.

The Gold ABIA for Book of the Year was taken out by first-time author Jane Harper for her internationally acclaimed crime novel *The Dry*, which tells the story of a country town that is plunged into tragedy when a mother and child are murdered in their home. Film rights have been snapped up by Reese Witherspoon's company, and publication rights were sold in more than 20 territories after fierce auctions.

Australian rock icon, Jimmy Barnes can now add award-winning author to his list of achievements after winning Biography Book of the Year for *Working Class Boy*. It's a powerful memoir about a traumatic childhood which set the path for a future of excess and recklessness that would almost destroy the legend.

On the back of Di Morrissey's *Rain Music*, announced as the most borrowed Australian book in libraries, this novelist's status as one of the nation's favourite storytellers was sealed with her induction into the ABIA Hall of Fame. Morrissey joins previous Lloyd O'Neil Award author recipients, including Peter Carey, John Marsden, Margaret Fulton and Bryce Courtenay.

Thomas Keneally, who presented the award, said: 'Di Morrissey, an old neighbour of mine, has not only distinguished herself through writing novels loved by hundreds of thousands of Australians but has also – let us not forget – made possible the publication of many books that may not otherwise have appeared without her contribution to the Australian book industry.'

Andy Griffiths won Book of the Year for Younger Children and the inaugural Audiobook of the Year award for the extremely popular *The 78-Storey Treehouse*. He also had three books listed on this year's most borrowed Australian books index.

The Last Painting of Sara de Vos by Dominic Smith won Literary Fiction Book of the Year, and Zana Fraillon won the Book of the Year for Older Children with *The Bone Sparrow*, a touching story about the refugee crisis.

On a golden night for publisher Pan Macmillan, the event ended with another big win, Publisher of the Year, and Small Publisher of the Year went to NewSouth Publishing. National Retailer was snapped up by Booktopia, and Readings of Melbourne and Potts Point Bookshop now share the title of Independent Retailer of the Year.

This year the judging panel was thrilled with the quality of the submissions. What was truly outstanding was the passionate commitment Australian publishers have



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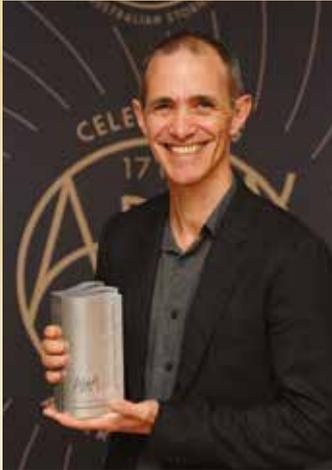


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towards their authors, and the quality of books submitted this year reflected that commitment.

Benny Thomas, Chair of the 2017 ABIA book judging panel, said, 'Not only do Australian publishers nurture and deliver new and exciting authors but they also take a long-term view that supporting authors through highs and lows leads to great rewards. This was truly evident in this year's outstanding submissions.' 🌟



Andy Griffiths



Clementine Ford



Jane Harper



Jimmy Barnes



Tom Keneally and Di Morrissey



Jane Harper and Di Morrissey

2017 ABIA HALL OF FAME

LLOYD O'NEIL AWARD Di Morrissey

PIXIE O'HARRIS AWARD Margaret Connolly

2017 ABIA BOOK AWARDS WINNERS

GOLD ABIA FOR BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Dry by Jane Harper (Pan Macmillan)

BIOGRAPHY BOOK OF THE YEAR

Working Class Boy by Jimmy Barnes (HarperCollins)

AUDIOBOOK OF THE YEAR

The 78-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton, narrated by Stig Wemyss (Bolinda)

BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN (AGES 0-8)

The 78-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton (Pan Macmillan)

BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR OLDER CHILDREN (AGES 8-14)

The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon (Hachette Australia)

GENERAL FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR, PRESENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY

The Dry by Jane Harper (Pan Macmillan)

GENERAL NON-FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Road to Ruin: How Tony Abbott and Peta Credlin destroyed their own government by Niki Savva (Scribe)

ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF THE YEAR

Penguin Bloom by Cameron Bloom & Bradley Trevor Greive (ABC Books, HarperCollins Publishers)

INTERNATIONAL BOOK OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY AUDIBLE

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett (Bloomsbury)

LITERARY FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Last Painting of Sara de Vos by Dominic Smith (Allen & Unwin)

MATT RICHELL AWARD FOR NEW WRITER OF THE YEAR, PRESENTED BY SIMPSONS SOLICITORS

Fight Like a Girl by Clementine Ford (Allen & Unwin)

SMALL PUBLISHERS' ADULT BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Australian Native Bee Book by Tim Heard (Sugarbag Bees)

SMALL PUBLISHERS' CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR

My Sister is a Superhero by Damon Young and illustrated by Peter Carnavas (University of Queensland Press)

2017 ABIA BUSINESS AWARDS

PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR

Pan Macmillan Australia

SMALL PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR

NewSouth Publishing

NATIONAL RETAILER

Booktopia

INDEPENDENT BOOK RETAILERS OF THE YEAR

Readings, Melbourne, and Potts Points Bookshop, Sydney