

Magabala Books acknowledges Yawuru people, the Traditional Owners and custodians of Rubibi (Broome) and pay our respects to Yawuru Elders. We are privileged to share and walk this special Country together.

Magabala also acknowledges the Traditional Owners of our many Nations across Australia. We recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and cultures. Through what we publish, we honour our Elders, peoples and stories, past, present and future.

We respectfully caution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers that this report may contain images of people who have passed away.

Vale Yorna (Donny) Woolagoodja

Magabala acknowledges the passing of senior Worrorra leader Yorna (Donny) Woolagoodja on 18 September 2022 and expresses our deep condolences to his family and community. Mr Woolagoodja was a patient cultural guide and passionate about passing his knowledge on to the younger generations and aalmara (non-Indigenous people). Mr Woolagoodja was the first Chairperson of the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and a renowned artist whose giant Namaralay Wandjina featured in the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Magabala is proud to have published his significant book *Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja* in 2020.



Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation

1 Bagot Street PO Box 668 Broome WA 6725 Phone 08 9192 1991 www.magabala.com







@magabalabooks ABN 56 764 219 082 Magabala Books receives financial assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.









Cover artwork and internal design elements from *Open Your Heart to Country* by Jasmine Seymour.

CONTENTS

The year in review	10
2022 Publications	14
A diversity of voices	22
Celebrating success	24
Sharing our stories	28
Investing in creative futures	37
Forging new pathways	45
Continuing our cultural legacy	46
Planting seeds	47
Partners	50
Governance	54
Staff	55
Financial report	56





Australia's leading Indigenous publisher

Proudly Aboriginal owned and led, we are an internationally-recognised and award-winning publisher that has celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytelling for over 36 years.

Our vision

- To honour the diverse voices, stories, cultures and truths of First Nations creators from across Australia.
- To educate and inspire national and international audiences through a growing body of quality publications.
- To change the world, one story at a time.

Our purpose

- Magabala publishes and celebrates unique and powerful stories by First Nations creators.
- We provide best practice leadership in the publishing industry as a culturally safe publishing house that values, supports and respects First Nations writers, illustrators, storytellers and publishing professionals.
- As a cultural guardian and advocate, we protect the cultural and intellectual property rights of our creators and their communities.
- Our publications shape histories and challenge the national narrative about First Nations peoples, cultures and sovereignty.





2022

17

new releases

1

new edition

70

reprints

284,892

books sold

new titles unde

new titles under development

173

Indigenous creators and their families receiving royalties 18

Indigenous authors and illustrators published 38

awards longlisted, shortlisted or won

13

creative development scholarships 9

creative development grants 1

mid-career fellowship 2

digital development grants

The year in review

A message from the Chair

On behalf of the Board of Magabala Books, I am proud to present the 2022 Annual Report: our 36th year proudly publishing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories.

Firstly, I acknowledge our staff, a small group of dedicated and passionate people – more determined than ever in 2022 to deliver positive outcomes for our creators and communities across Australia in spite of significant set-backs and challenges.

On 31 January 2022, Magabala Books experienced a major flood. The heaviest rainfall in 120 years combined with large seasonal tides deposited 30cms of water through our building – ruining carpet, furniture and low-lying stock, and creating mould and damp conditions.

Over four months, the Magabala office had to be gutted and refurbished. This work required intensive coordination of trades, insurance, and stock recovery and I acknowledge the incredible efforts of all staff in their response. I thank them for their teamwork in dealing with the immediate aftermath, and their resilience in adjusting to the ongoing instability caused by the flood and the arrival of the COVID-19 virus into Western Australia in March.

Yet, in spite of these immense challenges, 2022 was also an incredibly successful year for Magabala Books. We succeeded in delivering our vision and purpose; we published 17 new books. The publishing team continued work on 101 new titles in development. We held our ground with strong sales, while responding to freight and logistic challenges caused by global supply chain issues. Alongside many festivals and events, we celebrated 5 book launches and the excellence of our titles was recognised with 38 award longlisting, shortlisting or wins. Internationally, Magabala Books was again nominated for The Astrid Lindgren: International Children's Literature Award.

We commenced an Operational Review, and engaged a new premises scoping project (in direct response to the ongoing flood risk at our current site). We held a 3 day Strategic Planning workshop in Rubibi – our first in-person all staff and all Board gathering in 3 years and welcomed 3 new Board Directors.

Our new Strategic Plan – Our Legacy of Living Cultures, sets the agenda for the next five years – focusing on the consolidation of operational capacity and strengthening Magabala's legacy. The Strategy is an exciting road map for the future, as we continue to reaffirm and assert Magabala's significance in publishing First Nations' stories and impact on Australian literature.

I thank my fellow Directors for their deep passion and commitment to Magabala Books as volunteers, who constantly give their time generously. Our united leadership, guided by those who have gone before, sets a strong foundation for Magabala's continued success.

And last, but not least, I thank all our generous funders, donors, and partners, without whom the breadth and depth of our outcomes would not be possible. Together we make a difference, changing the world one story at a time.

Gala Mabu

Tony Lee Chairperson



A message from the CEO

2022 was an intensely challenging year for our Magabala team – the most challenging since the pandemic started. There was also much to celebrate, as our team continued to produce excellence under duress, united in their heartfelt commitment to Magabala's purpose. I acknowledge their resilience, sheer hard work and good humour.

In the midst of all the challenges: the flood, staff illness and supply chain chaos, the reasons to celebrate in 2022 were many – each book we published a reflection of the diverse talents of our creators, Magabala's commitment to truth telling and to honouring our Elders, made tangible in books like *Growing up Wiradjuri, Art, Charlie's Swim, Cartwarra or what?*, and The Shield and the Spear.

We mourned the passing of respected and much loved Elder Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja, and are grateful that we were able to celebrate the publication of his book with him in 2020. We celebrated the life of our late friend, the inimitable Josie Boyle, with the publication of her story *The Shop Train*.

We supported emerging writers and we awarded more creative development funding than ever before. The quality of our creators' work was recognised in numerous awards and shortlistings, and the team was really moved by the personal feedback and responses shared through our evaluation processes, about the incredible impact of our books.

A highlight of the year was the realisation of our plans to create jobs for early career First Nations publishing professionals within every team of Magabala. We had many new faces join Magabala throughout the year and each has enriched the team. To all staff, I thank you and particularly express my gratitude to our leadership team, Rachel Bin Salleh and Kate Rendell, for their strategic thinking, initiative and support throughout the year.

I am grateful for the support of the Board throughout the year, in particular Chairperson Tony Lee's regular presence in the office. The extent of the Board's vision and depth of care for Magabala's work is inspiring.

Anna Moulton

CEO





It's important to spread awareness around Aboriginality and Aboriginal people... Once people get to peek in on our history and past, maybe then they'll have a better understanding and acceptance of who we are.

Aunty Elaine Lomas,
 Growing Up Wiradjuri

2022 Publications

New releases





The Sweetest Egg of All

Helen Milroy (WA)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

The Sweetest Egg of All is the third book in Helen Milroy's Bush Mob series, and follows Gecko, Thorny Devil and Scrubby Python, who want to find a special birthday present for their friend. When they hear from King George Brown that Willy-Wagtail's egg is the sweetest egg of all, they hatch a plan to steal an egg for Bungarra's birthday.

"Some gentle lessons on kindness and friendship conveyed with a harmonious blend of artwork and storytelling...a fun read for families." – Glam Adelaide

This Is Me!

Sally Morgan (WA)

CHILDREN'S BOARD BOOK

This is Me! is a beautiful board book about self-acceptance. Sally Morgan's colourful pastel palette, sensitive artwork and gentle text celebrates the joy of loving one another and each page is encouragement for a child to say something that they love about themselves.

"This is a beautiful little book that deserves a place on every baby's bookshelf." – Books+Publishing



Charlie's Swim

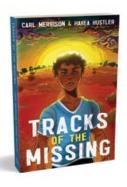
Edith Wright (WA) and Charmaine Ledden-Lewis (NSW)

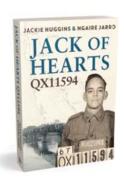
CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

Charlie's Swim is based on the true story of the author's Uncle Charlie (Charles D'Antoine) who was working inside a flying boat when the Japanese attack on Broome began. In the midst of flying bullets, blazing fires and sharks, Charlie rescued a woman and child, swimming them safely ashore at Roebuck Bay.

"The text reveals Charlie's story in simple prose but it is the daring illustrations that provide a close-up view of the action." – ED! Magazine









Tracks of the Missing

Carl Merrison and Hakea Hustler (WA)

YOUNG ADULT

'Old Mate', Mr Henry, who has lived in town for a long time, has been found murdered. He had been selling grog on the black market for years. To find answers Dek Archer joins his grandfather to track the truth, taking readers on a journey that moves deep into an ancient landscape to uncover secrets of the past.

"A gripping First Nations thriller...
this cracking read veers off
into unexpected places while
exploring all the shades of grey
that exist between right and
wrong, black and white, justice
and forgiveness." – The Age

Jack of Hearts: QX11594

Jackie Huggins and Ngaire Jarro (QLD)

MEMOIR

Jack Huggins had an idyllic childhood in Ayr, where his family somehow escaped the harsh Queensland government treatment of First Nations' peoples – this was all to change when he was captured by the Japanese in Singapore as a young man and indentured on the notorious Burma-Thailand railway during WWII. Jack of Hearts: QX11594 is an affectionate portrait of one man's life.

"This biography is a touching account of one man's struggles in wartime and an important reminder of the underappreciated contribution made by Indigenous Australians not only to Australian society, but to the freedom of the modern world." – Writing WA

FIFO - Fit In or F**k Off!

Melody Dia (WA)

PLAY SCRIPT

FIFO – Fit In or F**k Off! explores the challenges fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers and their families face, including the disconnection, feelings of displacement, isolation, and the ever-present drug culture. Filled with wry humour, turbulent emotions and unflinching truths.

"Confronting yet tempered with Aboriginal humour...FIFO is an important story that could justifiably be dedicated to the moguls of the mining industry." – Writing WA

New releases



Cartwarra or what?

Alf Taylor (WA)

POETRY

Cartwarra or what?: Selected poems and stories is a compendium of Alf Taylor's work. This collection delicately weaves together his past works for new audiences. Alf seamlessly captures human frailty, in all its contradictions, and seizes upon ironies that coexist, merge and jostle for light and space in everyday Nyoongar life.

"There is a brutal honesty to his poetry...spare and powerful." – Good Reading



Open Your Heart to Country

Jasmine Seymour (NSW)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

Told in English and Dharug, *Open Your Heart to Country* is a moving account of re-connection to Country from a First Nations perspective. Sharing the nourishing power of returning home and being immersed in the language of Country, this picture book invites readers to reflect on the importance of place, not only for First Nations' peoples but for everyone.

This is a visually stunning picture book... I was drawn to each character, deep in concentration in their connection to Country while they swim, dance and perceive the world around them."

— Readings Online



The Shop Train

Josie Wowolla Boyle dec. (WA) and Paul Seden (NT)

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

The Shop Train was inspired by the Tea and Sugar train that began operating in 1917 to provide supplies and services for rail workers and people living in remote communities between Port Augusta in South Australia and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. Paul Seden's evocative illustrations effortlessly capture a bygone era, rendering the past with a deep sense of nostalgia.

"A beautifully rendered, heartwarming journey back in time and place." – Writing WA







Gregg Dreise (QLD)

CHILDREN'S BOARD BOOK

Where's my baby? by Gregg Dreise is a board book that encourages young readers to learn new adjectives in English and the names of iconic Australian animals in Gamilaraay language, in an enjoyable way.

"A real pleasure to share with young children..." – CBCA Reading Time



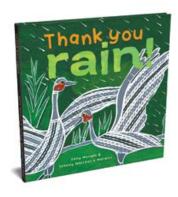
The Shield and the Spear - The Kimberley Land Council

Kimberley Land Council with Joe Fox (WA)

NON-FICTION

In May 1978 leaders from Aboriginal Communities across the Kimberley met at a Cultural Festival, at which a new organisation – The Kimberley Land Council – was officially formed and launched. *The Shield and the Spear* is a comprehensive history and archive of the significant organisation that emerged.

"When you put all these stories of the Land Council together, you accept that the Land Council has played an important role in this era. I feel so proud to have grown up with the organisation." – Anthony Watson, Chairperson, Kimberley Land Council



Thank you Rain!

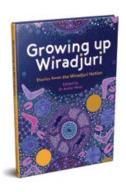
Sally Morgan (WA) and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr (NT)

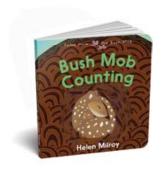
CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

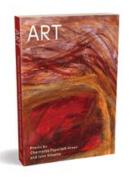
Thank you Rain! is a beautifully illustrated celebration of all the plants and animals that welcome rain: from the birds singing in the rain; to frogs, kangaroos and trees. Sally Morgan's words and Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr's sensitive artwork combine to bring each page to life.

"A beautiful celebration of the rainy season in Northern Australia." – Glam Adelaide

New releases







Growing up Wiradjuri

Dr Anita Heiss (NSW)
Featuring stories by Aunty Isabel
Reid, Uncle Stan Grant Snr,
Aunty Lorraine Tye, Aunty Elaine
Lomas, Aunty Cheryl Penrith,
Uncle James Ingram, Aunty Mary
Atkinson, Uncle Norman Little
JUNIOR NON-FICTION

Growing up Wiradjuri is a collection of personal stories by Wiradjuri Elders. The writers are Uncles and Aunties who came of age in New South Wales in the 1950s and 1960s. In a strong collective voice, they share the difficulties, challenges and joys of growing up Wiradjuri.

"With humour, quiet candour and gratitude for Country and culture, Wiradjuri Elders tell their stories for younger generations." – The Sydney Morning Herald

Bush Mob Counting

Helen Milroy (WA)

CHILDREN'S BOARD BOOK

Bush Mob Counting is a fun and colourful way for young children to learn how to count to 10. Milroy's renowned bush mob characters from the 'Tales from the Bush Mob' Series are sure to educate and entertain children of all ages.

"Milroy's rich, vibrant illustrations depict the landscape against which these animals live, making her work most recognisable." – ReadPlus

ART

Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green and John Kinsella (WA)

POETRY

ART is the second collaborative poetry work from Charmaine Papertalk Green and John Kinsella. The focus of their attention is a series of paintings by the late Nyoongar painter Shane Pickett. Pickett's work provides provocation for both poets to reflect on their own lives and histories on Nyoongar country.

"ART functions as a salve to the paralysis – a desire for absolution to be offered by Indigenous peoples... Through their collaboration, Green and Kinsella embody what an alternative might look like: finding the wriggle room of freedom, nurturing rage and resistance." – The Monthly

New edition



Silver Leaves

Gladys Milroy (WA)

JUNIOR FICTION

Owl and Night Parrot are nocturnal. They have a lovely big tree well away from all the noisy birds ... until one day the noisy birds are fighting over space in their tree. They discover the poor birds' trees have been cut down and Night Parrot suggests they look for a seed to grow a tree big enough for everyone. A beautiful story about conservation, working together and hope.

"This handsome, cloth bound treasure is a wonderful addition to the family library and highly recommended as a read-aloud story for children aged 4 and up and as an independent read for ages 6 and up." – Readings



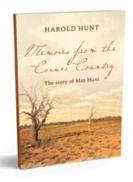
Koori Princess

Dr Anita Heiss (NSW)

JUNIOR FICTION

An insightful and humorous story of a young girl's determination to be who she wants to be. Teish is a sassy, soon-to-be 8-year-old and the apple of her dad's eye. She believes more than anything, that she is a Disney princess. Her older siblings, Karan and Kim, like to remind her that she isn't but Teish is determined to prove them wrong.

"Koori Princess is a great story and offers a springboard for discussions about stereotyping and race for kids..." – ReadPlus



Memoirs from the Corner Country: The Story of May Hunt

Harold Hunt (NSW)

MEMOIR

First published in 2006, Memoirs from the Corner Country takes the reader on a journey through one of the harshest terrains in outback Australia. May Hunt, a Malyangapa woman from Milparinka, made a life for herself and her children where dust storms swirled off the Simpson Desert and gibber-covered plains shimmered in the midday heat.

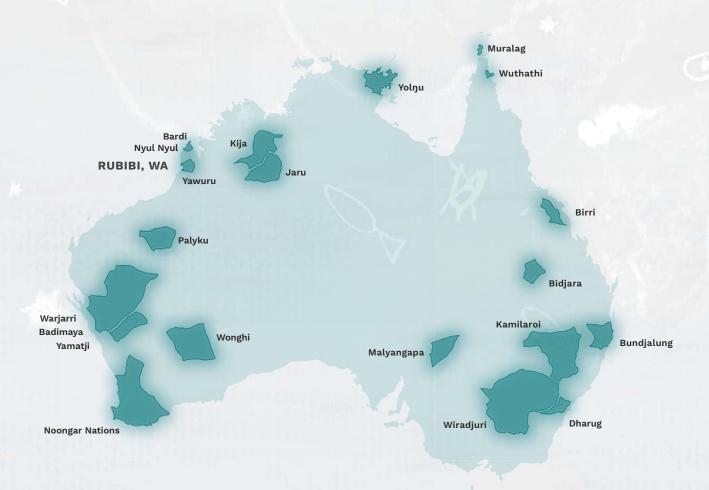
"Although this is a book about May, I felt this was an introduction to many Indigenous women's lives of that era. In some ways May's was a fortunate life, it may even have been ordinary... at the same time, you also recognise she was exceptional." — Good Reading

When I was taken from my mother and placed in the orphanage it was the bush that saved me. I hope the book helps children feel that love for the bush. Kids needs to learn to love the trees. We can't live without them.

Gladys Milroy,
 Silver Leaves



A diversity of voices





This map is an artist's impression reflecting our creators' many and diverse Nations across Australia. Please note due to scale, it does not represent Nation boundaries accurately, nor is it intended to be relied upon for any purpose, including educational purposes.



Josie Wowolla Boyle dec. The Shop Train (Wonghi)



Melody Dia FIFO – Fit In or F**k Off! (Nyul Nyul)



Gregg Dreise Where's my baby? (Kamilaroi/Euahlayi)



Dr Anita Heiss Growing up Wiradjuri and Koorri Princess (Wiradyuri)



Jackie Huggins Jack of Hearts: QX11594 (Bidjara/Birri Gubba Juru)



Harold Hunt Memoirs from the Corner Country (Malyangapa)



Ngaire Jarro *Jack of Hearts: QX11594* (Bidjara/Birri Gubba Juru)



Charmaine Ledden-Lewis Charlie's Swim (Bundjalung)



Carl Merrison Tracks of the Missing (Jaru/Kija)



Gladys Milroy Silver Leaves (Palyku)



Helen Milroy The Sweetest Egg of All and Bush Mob Counting (Palyku)



Sally Morgan This is Me! and Thank you Rain! (Palyku)



Paul Seden
The Shop Train
(Wuthathi/Muralag)



Jasmine Seymour Open Your Heart to Country (Dharug)



Alf Taylor Cartwarra or what? (Nyoongar)



Dr Charmaine Papertalk Green *ART* (Yamaji)



Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr Thank you rain! (Yolŋu)



Edith Wright Charlie's Swim (Bardi)

NON-INDIGENOUS COLLABORATORS AND CONTRIBUTORS



Joe Fox The Shield and The Spear – The Kimberley Land Council



Hakea Hustler Tracks of the Missing



John Kinsella ART

Celebrating success























Australian Book Industry Awards

Small Publishers' Children's Book of the Year

- The River longlisted
- Kunyi shortlisted
- Albert Namatjira shortlisted

Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature

Non-Fiction Award

• Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja – shortlisted

Children's Literature Award

• Bindi – shortlisted

Barbara Jefferis Award

• Benevolence - shortlisted

Children's Book Council of Australia

Early Childhood Book of the Year

- The River longlisted
- Sharing longlisted
- Sea Country longlisted

Eve Pownall Award

• Kunyi – longlisted

Chief Minister's NT Literary Awards

Children's and/or Young Adult Works

• The River – shortlisted

Environment Award for Children's Literature

- Sea Country shortlisted
- The River winner
- Sharing winner

Karajia Award for Children's Literature

- Sharing winner
- Sea Country shortlisted

Ena Noel Award, The Ibby Australia Encouragement Award

Young Emerging Writer or Illustrator

- Bindi shortlisted
- What do you call a baby...? shortlisted

NSW Premier's Literary Awards

Indigenous Writers' Prize

- God, the Devil and Me shortlisted
- Yornadaiyn Woolagoodja highly commended

Patricia Wrightson Prize for Children's Literature

- Bindi shortlisted
- Shirley Purdie highly commended
- Cooee Mittigar highly commended

Queensland Literary Awards

Children's Book Award

• Kunyi – winner

Readings Children's Prize

• Bindi – shortlisted

Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards

- This is me! shortlisted
- Albert Namatjira shortlisted

Tasmanian Literary Awards

Minister for the Arts Prize for Books for Young Readers and Children

• Sea Country – shortlisted

Western Australian Premier's Book Awards

The Premier's Prize for an Emerging Writer

• Debesa – shortlisted

Daisy Utemorrah Award

Robert Runs – winner



WINNER — 2022 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BOOK AWARDS, THE PREMIER'S PRIZE FOR AN EMERGING WRITER

SHORTLISTED — 2022 PRIME MINISTER'S LITERARY AWARDS, POETRY

SHORTLISTED — 2022 ALS GOLD MEDAL

SHORTLISTED — 2022 STELLA PRIZE

SHORTLISTED — 2022 ADELAIDE FESTIVAL AWARDS FOR LITERATURE, JOHN BRAY POETRY AWARD

SHORTLISTED — 2021 QUEENSLAND LITERARY AWARDS, JUDITH WRIGHT CALANTHE AWARD FOR POETRY COLLECTION

HIGHLY COMMENDED — 2022 VICTORIAN PREMIER'S LITERARY AWARDS, POETRY & INDIGENOUS WRITING

"'Homecoming' is a stellar constellation."

- Dr Jeanine Leanne, Australian Book Review

"Verging on the hypnotic in its effect, 'Homecoming' is at once a lullaby, and a lament." ★★★★

- Gregory Dobbs, Good Reading

"...elegant and extraordinary..."

- Australian Arts Review















This story is about learning your own language and the feeling of connection that knowledge brings... This is a book about generosity and healing too. Even in the most damaged places hope lives in renewal and in memory. That is Indigenous resilience.

Jasmine Seymour,
 Open Your Heart to Country

Sharing our stories

Social media followers

40,596



18,893

16,162 (2021) 14,471 (2020)



4,994

4,996 (2021) 4,194 (2020)



16,709

16,069 (2021) 13,025 (2020) **Enewsletter** subscribers

Unique Website users

Website page views

5,907

122,746 1,056,677

4,426 (2021) 3,624 (2020)

132,449 (2021) 121,356 (2020)

1,065,472 (2021) 961,592 (2020)

Book reviews and media

"Magabala Books" mentions

(potential audience 22,939,500)

(potential audience 77,356,107)

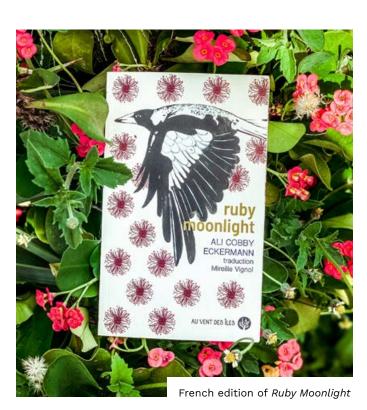
*syndicated mentions combined

Rights Sales

In 2022 Magabala Books employed a part-time inhouse Rights Manager to work on licensing our creators' works in different formats around the world. We built a list of 11 exclusive sub-agents representing sales of our books into territories including Türkiye, Hungary, France, China, Japan and Korea and continue to work on expanding this list. A dedicated catalogue was created for the Frankfurt Book Fair 2022 and received much positive feedback and interest.

Benevolence by Julie Janson was published in the US and the UK (HarperVia) and the following rights were sold:

- Ruby Moonlight by Ali Cobby Eckermann,
 French language (Les Vent des Iles)
- Ruby Moonlight by Ali Cobby Eckermann, Film/ TV option renewal (No Coincidence Media and Arena Media)
- Seafaring by Victor Briggs, Audio (Bolinda).



Publicity highlights

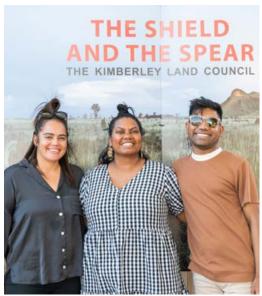
- Growing Up Wiradjuri on 7 News Wagga Wagga
- Review of ART in The Monthly by Declan Fry
- Jackie Huggins interview on ABC Conversations
- Jackie Huggins and Ngaire Jarro on NITV News
- Jackie Huggins and Ngaire Jarro on Today Extra

Book Launches

Alongside many festival attendances and events, we were lucky to gather and celebrate five book launches in 2022:

- 11 April: Jack of Hearts: QX11594 book launch at State Library of Queensland
- 9 June: Cartwarra or what? launch at Centre for Stories, Perth
- 12 September: Thank you Rain! and Open your Heart to Country launch in Parliament House, Canberra
- 6 October: Growing Up Wiradjuri launch in Wagga Wagga
- 27 November: Koori Princess launch in Brisbane
- **15 December:** *The Shield and the Spear* launch in Rubibi (Broome)





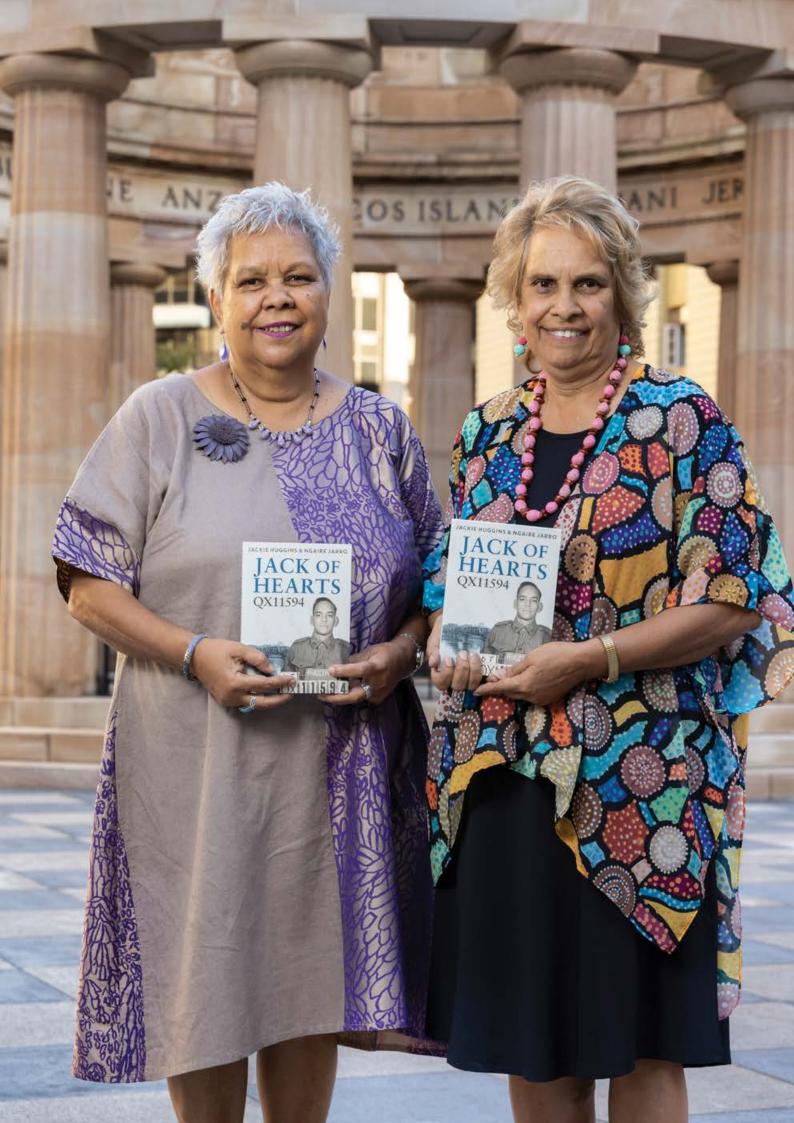
Left:Jackie Huggins
and Ngaire Jarro

Right: Katherine Dann, Tonii Skeen, Dwesmond Wiggan-Dann, photo: Gabrielle Timmons



The past, present and future need to be spoken about and shared.

Jackie Huggins,
 Jack of Hearts: QX11594













STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2021

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIER'S BOOK AWARDS

siwa.wa.gov.au

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Mariah Sweetman receiving the Daisy Utemorrah Award at the State Library of WA

Investing in creative futures

Magabala is committed to nurturing and celebrating the talent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytellers, writers, artists, illustrators, editors and publishing professionals.

The Daisy Utemorrah Award

The Daisy Utemorrah Award, presented within the WA Premiers Book Awards, is a national award recognising excellence in junior and YA fiction, which seeks to grow Indigenous writing for younger readers. In 2022, the \$15,000 award and publishing contract went to Ugarapul writer/ illustrator Mariah Sweetman for her work 'Robert Runs'.

Mariah Sweetman is a Ugarapul woman living and creating on Gubbi Gubbi land with her husband and dog. She loves to create with words and paint in response to connection to culture. Professionally, Mariah is an English teacher in Gubbi Gubbi Country and is passionate about young people engaging with Indigenous histories and stories.

Mariah will work with the Magabala publishing team throughout 2023 to develop her manuscript 'Robert Runs' for publication.

A huge thank you to Magabala Books. Most importantly I thank my Ugarapul family back home. Thank you so much for your stories, and I just pray that I honour you with this story I've told.

Creative Development Scholarships

In 2022, 13 First Nations creators were awarded scholarships to commence creative development projects in 2023. Scholars are selected through a competitive application process and expressions of interest come from all over Australia.



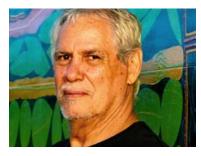
Ari Mills, writes for young Black Queer folk that are looking for themselves in all art spaces and mediums, they want to create spaces for all Mob to be celebrated and cherished. Ari will be supported to participate in online writing courses or purchase materials.



Brooke Robinson, is a
Tasmanian Aboriginal saltwater
woman currently living on
Turrakana country (Tasman
Peninsula) in the southeast of
her island home. Brooke will be
supported to undertake online
writing courses to further
develop her writing skills.



Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, is a proud Bundjalung woman living on Dharug & Gundungurra Country in the Blue Mountains, NSW. Charmaine will receive creative development funds to undertake online writing courses and engage a writing mentor.



Eddie Kitching is a local Darwin born and raised Mudburra Gurindji/Larrakia artist and researcher. Eddie will be supported to continue work on a memoir of his grandmother's story with an editorial mentor.



Janice Slater, is Badimia
Yamatji (maternal) and
Ballardong + Whadjuk Noongar
(paternal), born in 1950 and
raised at Coodingnow Station.
Janice will be supported to
engage an editorial mentor and
manuscript assessment.



Darug diyin (Darug woman of Burramatta/Parramatta). She was raised on Wiradjuri Country in Wagga Wagga. Jayne will undertake an online writing course with Gotham Writers Workshop and a mentorship to further develop her writing.



Joanna Agius, is an emerging writer and profoundly Deaf and proud Narungga woman living in Kaurna country in South Australia. Joanna will be supported through an editorial mentorship and Auslan interpreted mentoring sessions.



Lay Maloney, is a storyteller of the Gumbaynggirr and the Gunggandji nations and South Sea Islander heritage. Lay will be supported with creative development funds to purchase writing equipment and materials.



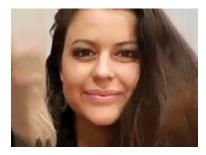
Lulu Houdini, is a proud Gamilaroi/Gomeroi woman, writer, nurse, birth worker and arts worker. Lulu creates and explores connections with poetry of land, sea, sky, story, and to date she is an unpublished writer. Lulu will be supported to engage an editorial mentor.



Merinda Dutton, is a Barkandji and Gumbaynggirr woman, lawyer and co-founder of the Instagram handle @blackfulla_bookclub. She has variously written non-fiction pieces and been published by Griffith Review, Sydney Review of Books, and the Guardian. Merinda will undertake an online writing course with Gotham Writers.



Samantha Campbell, is from Darwin but currently living in Alice Springs, she is descended from the Dagoman people from Katherine. Samantha has illustrated eight books since 2016 when Magabala first offered her the opportunity to illustrate Alfred's War. Samantha will be supported to further develop her professional illustration website.



Tahnaya Hunt, is a Barkindji woman who comes from a line of talented musicians and entertainers and writers. Tahnaya will be supported to enrol in an online writing course to further develop her writing skills.



Tahnee Carter, is a 24-yearold Broome local who has found creative outlet in writing. Tahnee will be supported to engage an editorial mentor to develop her current manuscript.

Previously, it was only a dream to illustrate books and I never knew how or where to go to build a career in this. The support and mentorship Magabala Books have provided from the beginning has been so incredibly valuable.

- Samantha Campbell

AIC Creative Grants

We were proud to partner with Australian Indigenous Coffee (AIC) in 2022 to launch the inaugural AIC Creative Grants. These grants, worth \$10,000 each, are intended to provide valuable time for storytellers, writers, illustrators and artists working on a manuscript or illustration portfolio towards publication. The 2022 AIC Creative Grants were awarded to Jenny Fraser and Casey Mulder.



Jenny Fraser is an established artist and academic interested in sharing knowledge for future healing and reference, with written and visual symbolism that can be read or interpreted in Truth Telling. Jenny will use the grant to shape her current manuscript as well as sourcing visual materials to support her project.



Casey Mulder is a Ballardong Noongar woman from Western Australia. She is a Secondary English teacher and Student Services leader within schools. Casey has a keen interest in First Nations storytelling in all its forms. Casey will be supported to continue to work on her manuscript 'Over the Fire' – a coming-of-age memoir set in the Kimberley and the grants funds will include travel to Halls Creek for further engagement with Elders and families.

The reality of this story is very heavy, so any support means a lot, and I'm really grateful for this help to my dreams of getting it out there.

This project has been close to my heart for many years. I am so grateful for the support of Magabala Books and AIC in helping me bring it to completion.

Magabala Fellowship



Thanks to the generosity of Serp Hills Foundation, our Fellowship, worth \$10,000, provides valuable support to a mid-career author working on a current manuscript. The 2022 Fellowship was granted to **Vivienne Cleven** for her manuscript: 'Beautiful Monsters'.

Kamilaroi author Vivienne Cleven's first novel, *Bitin' Back* won the David Unaipon Award in 2000. *Bitin' Back* was shortlisted in the 2002 Courier-Mail Book of the Year Award and the South Australian Premier's Award for Fiction. *Her Sister's Eye* was published in 2002. Vivienne's writing is also included in *Fresh Cuttings*, the first anthology of UQP Black Australian Writing, published in 2003.

I am overjoyed to have won the Magabala Fellowship and the opportunity to develop my work with this outstanding publisher.

Creative Development Support

Our Creative Development Fund extends discretionary financial support to writers and illustrators to undertake professional development opportunities and initiate new work. In 2022, we granted four discretionary grants, thanks to the Creative Development Fund and the generous support of donors.

ALIA Online Storytime Partnership

The publication of *Open Your Heart to Country* and *Thank you Rain!* was generously supported by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) with a grant from the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund. These books were commissioned to be included on the Online Storytime platform. ALIA support included creative development funding for Jasmine Seymour, Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr and Sally Morgan.

'This life changing investment in First Nations storytelling through an Australian Government RISE grant has real and lasting impacts. This will make a world of difference for our creators and their families. We are proud both books will be added to the ALIA Online Storytime project to encourage new pathways to First Nation stories.'

– Rachel Bin Salleh



TRACES

In 2022 Magabala partnered with Google to develop and present TRACES, a voice-to-art installation launched at the Sydney Opera House during VIVID Festival.

TRACES was a collaborative and experimental partnership with Google's Creative Lab, exploring how digital technology might amplify First Nations storytelling. Working with Gunai writer Kirli Saunders and Ballardong Noongar, Nimunburr, Yawuru artist Kamsani Bin Salleh, TRACES used voice-to-art technology to explore connection

to Country and honour 60,000+ years of oral storytelling.

Across three nights in the Sydney Opera House, we presented poetry and spoken word performances from Dub Leffler, Nardi Simpson, Teela Reid, Daniel Browning, Dakota Feirer, Jasmine Seymour, Kirli Saunders and Kamsani Bin Salleh. Amid the busy crowds of Vivid LIVE, TRACES was a powerful space of reflection, pause and formidable First Nations storytelling.

TRACES enhanced me as a storyteller and has taken me out of the zone of being an observer rather than a speaker. Growth seldom blossoms from comfort so thank you to Magabala and the team for planting those seeds of courage.

- Kamsani Bin Salleh





Forging industry pathways

Magabala is a leading advocate for First Nations publishing and our guidance is often sought by the industry. In this role, we work to assert and reclaim First Nations ways of working within the publishing industry.

First Nations Publishing Cadetship

Our First Nations publishing cadetship continued in 2022, with Sharona Wilson and Melena Cole-Manolis continuing their on-the-job training across all aspects of the publishing process, under the supervision of Rachel Bin Salleh. As well as progressing a number of new titles to print, the Cadets completed an Australian Writers Centre Children's Picture Book Course, attended a number of industry events and commenced an editorial mentorship with Jasmin McGaughey.

The Publishing Cadetship program was established in 2020 to provide employment pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the publishing industry, and with succession and career development in mind.

Nurturing industry connections

- Membership of Australian Publishers Association
- The Small Press Network (Rachel Bin Salleh, committee member)
- Independent Publishers Committee of the APA (Anna Moulton, committee member)
- Varuna First Nations Fellowship (Rachel Bin Salleh, mentor)
- Australia Council for the Arts, First Nations round table (Rachel Bin Salleh)
- PURRUMPA First Nations Arts and Culture Gathering (Tony Lee)



Continuing our cultural legacy...

Beyond our publishing schedule, we initiate and deliver a wide range of development projects with enduring social, cultural and educational value.

Through the Cultural Fund, Magabala supported the following projects in 2022:

- Aunty Daisy Howard's book project: the life story of Jaru Elder Daisy Howard in development with her granddaughter Emili Sefton.
- Griffiths book project: the life story of the late senior Ngarinyman Law man and artist A. Griffiths.
- The Shield and the Spear: the history of the Kimberley Land Council.

- *Gurawal the Whale*, by the late Uncle Max Dulumunmun Harrison.
- Gurril Storm Bird by Trevor Fourmile based on a Gimuy Walubara Yidinji traditional story.
- Memoirs of the Corner Country: new edition.
- Jandamarra and the Bunuba Resistance: new edition.

Planting seeds

We seek to broaden the reach and impact of our books through a range of education and community engagement projects.

Magabala Teacher Notes

We produce free teacher notes for new release books based on the education strategy for each title. Teacher notes are written by qualified teachers and curriculum experts and are made freely available on our website. In 2022, we commissioned eight Teacher Notes: Cartwarra or what?, Thank you Rain!, The Cockatoo Wars, The Shop Train, Tracks of the Missing, Open Your Heart to Country, Silver Leaves and Koori Princess.

Education partners

In addition to a growing number of school and educational buyers, Magabala supplies books to or has partnerships with, the following organisations who work with young people:

- Indigenous Literacy Foundation
- Books in Homes
- Scholastic
- Reading out of Poverty
- Gunawirra
- Koori Curriculum
- ABC Reading Eggs Online
- Storybox Library
- ALIA Online Storytime

State Library WA Better Beginnings

In 2022, Magabala secured a contract to provide 35,000 copies of *In the Bush I See* by Kiara Honeychurch for the Western Australian Government's Better Beginnings program. Better Beginnings is a family literacy program that connects families with books through free reading packs. The program supports learning outcomes for all WA children by encouraging families to read, talk, sing, write and play with their child every day.

Small Seeds Big Reads

Small Seeds supports literacy and ensures children across Australia have access to culturally relevant books they love. With the support of our generous donors, we purchase and deliver book packs for organisations where children and their families may have limited access to books. In 2022, we donated **1799 books** to a range of playgroups, early childhood centres, prison programs, out of home care and family support programs, including:

- Micah Projects South Brisbane, QLD
- Lullas Children & Family Centre -Shepparton, VIC
- Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre- Thomastown, VIC
- Blue Care Ny-Ku Byun Elders Village -Cherbourg QLD
- Umbrellas & Footprints Perth, WA
- Dept Communities, Child Protection and Family Support - Perth, WA
- Garnduwa Broome, WA
- Fostering Hope Foster Care Charity -Perth, WA
- Moorditj Noongar Community Library -Perth, WA
- Shooting Stars Broome, WA
- Parklea Correctional Centre Parklea, NSW
- West Kimberley Regional Prison Derby, WA
- Broome Police family room Broome, WA
- · Hornsby Hospital Hornsby, NSW
- Divina D'Anna Foster Care Book Drive -Broome, WA
- Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency VIC



Koori Princess is the book I wish I'd had growing up, dedicated to all the deadly young First Nations readers coming up.

Anita Heiss,
 Koori Princess



Partners

We believe First Nations publishing changes the world, and we couldn't do all that we do without the incredible support of our major government, industry, corporate, community and philanthropic partners.

Our industry partners

Our thanks to:

- The wonderful team at our distributor at NewSouth Books and at the warehouse, Australian Distribution Service.
- The team at Ovato (Griffin Press), our Australian printers.
- Post Pre-press Group, our typesetters.
- Booksellers: our champions, we thank you all.
 We would particularly like to acknowledge the independent booksellers who represent the majority of our customers and who contribute so much to Australia's vibrant literary culture.

Our funding partners

Magabala Books receives financial assistance from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the State Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. We are grateful to both the Australia Council and DLGSC for their significant investment in First Nations literature through the ongoing support of Magabala Books.

We would also like to acknowledge:

- The Shire of Broome for their support of Magabala through an operational subsidy.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development WA through the Kimberley Development Commission for their support of the Kimberley Art Centre Children's Book Series and the Indigenous Publishing Cadetship program.
- Copyright Agency Limited, for their support of the Daisy Utemorrah Award.
- State Library of Western Australia and the State Government of Western Australia for their support of the Daisy Utemorrah Award within the WA Premier's Book Awards.
- The Australian Library and Information
 Association (ALIA) for their support of the
 creative development and publication of
 2 titles through the Restart Investment to
 Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund, an Australian
 Government Initiative.
- Google Creative Lab for their support of TRACES.

Magabala thrives on creating meaningful, longterm relationships with philanthropic partners who share our values and we acknowledge the following Trusts and Foundations for their generous support:

- Jon & Caro Stewart Family Foundation (Cultural and Creative Development Fund)
- Spinifex Trust (Cultural and Creative Development Fund)
- Harry Kestin Foundation (Kestin Indigenous Illustrator Award)
- Donnelly Garner Foundation (Creative Development Fund)
- Oranges and Sardines (Kimberley Art Centre Series)
- AESOP Foundation (Cultural Fund)
- The Ian Potter Foundation (Indigenous Publishing Cadetship Program)
- Serp Hills Foundation (Magabala mid-career Fellowship)
- The JTM Foundation (Creative Development Fund)
- Australian Indigenous Coffee (AIC Creative Grants, Creative Development and Small Seeds)
- Aboriginal Benefits Foundation Trust (Creative Development Fund)

We would also like to acknowledge our wide range of individual donors; whose generous contributions support our cultural and social impact projects.









































Governance

Strong governance is one of our greatest assets. Magabala Books is governed by a dedicated, voluntary Board of Directors. Directors are elected from the Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation general membership. The Board comprises long-standing members and a new generation of First Nations Directors with relevant skills and experience.

As well as ensuring our decisions are Aboriginal-led, the Board makes sure Magabala delivers on our Strategic objectives, is accountable to members and stakeholders, and complies with our Rule Book, legal and financial obligations. Directors meet every six weeks via teleconference, and in 2022 we held our first in-person strategic workshop in three years, to develop our new Strategic Plan: 2023 – 2026 'Our Legacy of Living Cultures'. The Board also initiated a new premises scoping project, in response to the ongoing flood risk at our current site.

At the AGM, the Board welcomed back Josepha Howard to the Board and role as Treasurer, and welcomed two new Directors:

Bebe Backhouse

Bebe is a descendant of the Bardi Jawi people and has lived in Naarm (Melbourne) since 2012. A leader in designing high-profile programs and strategic projects for Australia's diverse communities, Bebe is a published author and frequent commentator on the arts and culture community. As the Director of Strategy and Policy at City of Melbourne, he holds multiple Board positions with a passion for the advocacy, advancement, and health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Traelyn Aiken

Traelyn Aiken is a Bunuba/Yawuru filmmaker who lives in Rubibi (Broome). He is the Video Production Manager at Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media and his role is to help remote Indigenous communities create films. He is an aspiring screenwriter who loves speculative and science fiction, and is passionate about supporting Kimberley and Pilbara mob to share their stories.

Board members:



TONY LEE Chairperson



STEVE KINNANEDeputy-Chairperson



JOSEPHA HOWARD
Treasurer



EDITH WRIGHT Director



MARGY DIA Director



LENKA VANDERBOOM Director



BEBE BACKHOUSE Director



TRAELYN AIKEN Director



CLINTON BENJAMIN
Director

Staff

CEO - Anna Moulton PUBLISHER - Rachel Bin Salleh SENIOR EDITOR - Margaret Whiskin EDITOR - Arlie Alizzi **PUBLISHING CADET** – Sharona Wilson PUBLISHING CADET - Melena Cole-Manolis RIGHTS MANAGER - Kate McCormack **DEVELOPMENT MANAGER** - Kate Rendell PROJECT OFFICER - Lauren Newton MARKETING MANAGER - Xenica Ayling **DIGITAL AND DESIGN OFFICER** – Gene Eaton MARKETING ASSISTANT - Aggie Manel-Caracciolo FINANCE MANAGER - Irene Huang (on maternity leave) **ACTING BOOKKEEPER** - Martine Docherty SALES AND INVENTORY COORDINATOR - Prudhvi Varma ADMINISTRATION AND RETAIL OFFICER - Dasia Kitaura

In 2022 we were delighted to welcome five new staff to our team, bringing our total staff to 16 and fulfilling our aspirations to increase our capacity in response to the exponential growth over the last five years.

In January, Arlie Alizzi joined us as Editor, bringing the wealth of his strong networks and experience as writer, editor and researcher to the publishing team. In September, the publishing team was also joined by Kate McCormack, Magabala's first inhouse Rights Manager. Working remotely from the Sunshine Coast, Kate draws on her exceptional experience and passion to achieve subsidiary rights outcomes and income for our creators.

After a significant period of temporary fills and recruitment challenges, Prudhvi Varma was appointed to the Sales and Inventory Coordinator role. We thank Sharon Power, who was with us as a temp until April 2022, for her work reshaping the inventory role.

In September, Aggie Manel-Caracciolo joined the expanded Marketing Team, in a new Marketing Assistant role and Lauren Newton took on a

reframed Project Officer position, while Kate Rendell stepped up to Development Manager. With these appointments, we realised our commitment to establish early-career employment pathways for First Nations publishing professionals in every team.

In addition to the new Marketing Assistant position, the marketing team were also supported by Cole Baxter, a Noongar photographer and social media consultant working from Boorloo (Perth). Olivia Ward continued to work casually in the Magabala shop.

The Operational/General Manager position is still outstanding, and being considered in the context of the organisational review ongoing.

We are grateful for the exceptional freelance and contractual support of Maryann Ballantyne, Bruce Sims, Grace Lucas-Pennington, Emilia Toia, Cathie Tasker, Ariana Klepac, Jo Hunt, Donna Rawlins, Inland Studios, Kelly Somers, Morey Media, Blackwattle Media, Christina Wheeler, Erika Dizon, Mystique Dia, Emily Broderick and Jasmin McGaughey.

Excellence in the face of adversity...

All this incredible Magabala activity was achieved notwithstanding the major flood in January, requiring a complete building refurbishment and causing significant business disruption until June.





