

The stories that have gripped the nation: Booktopia unveils annual quest to uncover Australia's Favourite Book

Australia's biggest bookstore's annual awards program returns featuring two new additional inaugural awards

Australia, 5 January 2022: Australia's biggest book store, Booktopia, has today launched its coveted annual book awards, championing great homegrown Australian talent. The **Favourite Australian Book (FAB) Awards**, which launched in 2019, return bigger and better than ever with two new prized awards included for the first time.

The FAB Awards were established in 2019 to create a unique book prize voted by the Australian public, based on a list decided editorially by Booktopia's experienced team of book experts.

The winner recognises who the Australian book-loving public have chosen as the Australian book that meant the most to them in that year, based on the results of the public vote. The winner of the inaugural FAB award for 2019 was *488 Rules for Life* by Kitty Flanagan while the 2020 winner was *Uncook Yourself: A Ratbag's Guide to Life* by Nat's What I Reckon. Both winners received \$5,000 as a reward for capturing the hearts and minds of the Australian audience.

The award puts a spotlight on local talent as only titles written by an Australian author and published by an Australian publisher in the 2021 calendar year, are eligible to win.

In 2020, more than 151,000 votes were cast in the FAB Awards, and Aussie book lovers should prepare to re-live and support the stories they have loved this year.

Voting is now open for the 2021 Favourite Australian Book Award. Book lovers wanting to have their say, can head to <https://www.booktopia.com.au/fab-award> to cast their vote and can vote for as many books as they wish in the first phase of voting. Fans that vote will also have the opportunity to win a Booktopia Gift Certificate for pledging their support for their favourites.

The vote will close on 19 January when the shortlist of the top 10 books of the year will be decided. Voting for the overall winner will commence at the end of January with the winner - who will be awarded the \$5,000 prize - announced in early February.

Alongside the Favourite Australian Book award, the 2021 awards program will also reveal **Booktopia's Favourite Book** and **Favourite Australian Debut Book** awards.

While the Favourite Australian Book award is selected by public vote, Booktopia's Favourite Book Award will champion the book chosen by Booktopia's team of book experts as *their* favourite book of the year. The award will be given only to an Australian author, to highlight talented, homegrown writers.

Booktopia's Favourite Australian Debut Book Award will champion an Australian author who made their debut in 2021. This award will be given to a debut Fiction, Non-fiction, Children's, Young Adult or Lifestyle book published in Australia in the past 12 months, and will also be chosen by Booktopia's team of book experts.

The winners of both new awards will be awarded with \$5,000 prizes, in line with the FAB award.

Tony Nash, Booktopia's CEO and Founder, commented: "The book industry continued to thrive in 2021 and it has been great to see so many great books written by talented Australian authors who have proved to be popular with Aussie book lovers. We're encouraging the nation to get behind their favourites and support the local book community to fly the flag for Australian talent."

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Notes to Editors

Booktopia is Australia's biggest bookstore: listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX:BKG), selling books, ebooks, DVDs, stationery, ereaders and audiobooks, delivering to every corner of Australia and New Zealand. Booktopia has access to over 6 million books in its database, offering Australian readers thousands of titles from a wide variety of international and local publishers. Whether you like to read physical books, or prefer reading via your computer, tablet, iPhone, Android smartphone or electronic reading device, Booktopia has readers covered – both online and offline.

For more information or to talk to a Booktopia spokesperson, please contact:

Adam Freedman, Head of Brand and Communications
0429 493 313 / adamf@booktopia.com.au

