



West Australian Young Readers' Book Award

Fourth Term 2007

PO Box 256 Guildford 6935

2007 AWARD WINNERS

	YOUNGER READERS' LIST		OLDER READERS' LIST
Highest Ranked Book	<i>They Came on Viking Ships</i> Jackie French	Highest Ranked Book	<i>Seven Ancient Wonders</i> Matthew Reilly
Hoffman Award Highest Ranked West Australian Author	<i>Nathan Nuttboard: Family Matters</i> Anthony Eaton	Avis Page Award Highest Ranked West Australian Author	<i>Destroying Avalon</i> Kate McCaffrey

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has supported WAYRBA in 2007. We hope your support will continue in 2008 and into the future.

Trophies

The 2007 award trophies were, once again donated by Geoff and Joscelyn Leatt-Hayter of *Westbooks* and Leo Schaper of *The Singing Tree (Cottesloe)*. The committee would like to thank them for their continued support.

Get ready for 2008

Reading lists, materials and instructions on how to participate in the WAYRBA 2008 program will be sent early in February. The 2008 reading lists are included in this newsletter, so you can have a head start to reading some of the WAYRBA titles over the summer break.

The book lists will also be available on our website early in January.

WAYRBA stationery items for 2008 will be available for purchase at our **2008 AGM** in **February**.

Anthony Eaton Hoffman Award 2007

Hi Everyone!

I'm thrilled to receive the Hoffman award for *Family Matters*, and really sorry that I can't be there in person with you all tonight to join in the celebration!

Thanks so much to all of you who voted for my book, and who enjoyed my twisted little tale about Nathan and his mad Grandfather. This is the first time I've received an prize in the West Australian Young Reader's Book Awards, and it's a particularly special one for me, because I grew up in Perth, and went to both primary and high school there, so I've got a lot of very fond memories of

voting in the WAYRBA every year, right through school. (In fact, I remember coming to the awards night at the state library right back when I was in year 8, which was the year that Roald Dahl won the award (I think for *The BFG*) – he sent an audio tape along with his speech on it, and hearing him talk about his amazing story and how he wrote it was one of the first experiences that made me think about one day becoming a writer...).

The WAYRBA was always one of my favourite times of the year, so as you can imagine, it's a real thrill for me now to be on the other end of the process – something I never thought would happen to me, that's for sure!

Unfortunately, my wife and I moved to Canberra early this year, which is why I can't join you tonight. I hope you all have a wonderful evening, though. I'll definitely be back in Perth a couple of times next year, and hopefully will see some of you during my visits. If you do see me, make sure you come up and say 'hi'.

Congratulations to all the other writers whose books made it onto the voting lists for this year, and of course, congratulations to all the other winners. Thanks heaps to the students who nominated *Family Matters*, and everyone have a great night.

Cheers,

Anthony

Kate McCaffrey Avis Page Award 2007

On Tuesday 13th November, the year 10's at Rossmoyne Senior High School had a special guest at their assembly. Kate McCaffrey, author of the book, *Destroying Avalon*, had been invited to the school to receive an award from the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award committee for having written the highest ranked book by a West Australian author on the 2007 Older Readers' list.

The presentation was made at Rossmoyne because a student at Rossmoyne nominated *Destroying Avalon*. The student had read the book in 2006 and enjoyed it so much, she nominated it be to on the 2007 Older Readers' list as a way of

recommending it to other young people across the state. It turned out that a lot of young people agreed that *Destroying Avalon* was a fantastic book. *Destroying Avalon* deals with internet and mobile phone bullying.

Jackie French Younger List Winner 2007

Jackie French received her WA Young Readers' Book Award on Monday September 17th at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre. Jackie was thrilled to learn that she had won a Children's Choice award.

Jackie French was in Perth to present the Leslie Rees Fremantle Lecture.



Jackie French with her WAYRBA award at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre.

We would like to thank Lesley Reece and all the staff at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre for their wonderful support of WAYRBA. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing resource at our doorstep. I am sure other states are envious!
<http://www.fclc.com.au/profile.html>

**Matthew Reilly
Older List Winner 2007**

**WAYRBA AWARD FOR “SEVEN
ANCIENT WONDERS”**

Thank you so much for your kind letter informing me of the wonderful news that my novel, *Seven Ancient Wonders*, was voted the most popular book in the Older Readers section of the West Australian Young Readers' Book Awards. As I won't be able to attend the official award ceremony, I would be most grateful if you would read this letter on my behalf at the announcement.

I'm thrilled to hear that the young readers of Western Australia have enjoyed *Seven Ancient Wonders*. I had a great time writing that book: researching ancient places (like the Great Pyramid at Giza and the Golden Capstone that reputedly once sat atop it), creating booby traps, coming up with wild action scenes, and fashioning a story that would enable my heroes to locate my favourite Ancient Wonder, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon!

When you enjoy creating a novel like *Seven Ancient Wonders*, the ultimate satisfaction comes in hearing that people enjoyed reading it. So thank you!

I'd also like to thank the WAYRBA committee for their continuing efforts in running this wonderful set of awards. I think the WAYRBAs make a fantastic contribution to the world of books and reading, specifically because they give young readers a voice. It is enormously important for young readers to be able to tell the world what they are reading, as opposed to the world telling young readers what they *should* be reading. So thank you, WAYRBA people.

I don't win many awards. For some reason, those who dispense the usual book awards have determined that my books are not worthy. I like to think this is because my novels are too much fun. My books give the reader an exciting story told at a breakneck pace. I put a huge amount of work into making my books as fast as is humanly possible, making them rush along at an out of control speed. This makes the reading of them enjoyable, but for some reason, award judges don't seem to rate enjoyment or the effort that goes into making the reading experience an active and suspenseful one.

But thankfully, young readers do. And you cannot overestimate how much I appreciate this acknowledgment by the young readers of Western Australia.

When I started writing novels, all I wanted to do was show readers a good time: to take them away from the real world for a few hours, or a few days. I like to think I've largely succeeded in this aim, but as the years have gone by, I have noticed a strange thing about my books: *my novels get non-readers reading*.

From teenage boys who were openly hostile to reading, to grown men who only read car magazines, my novels have done something very unusual: they have broken the ice. They show these non-readers that nothing is better than being immersed in a good book. And many readers have told me how, after reading "a Matthew Reilly book", they went on to read other novels, maybe something by Michael Crichton or Tom Clancy, or even a classic like *War and Peace!*

Although I never intended to do it, I create readers. My books introduce non-readers to reading and turn them into readers. And that is why *this* award makes me feel very proud. It reminds me that I am making a difference.

I should also confess that when I started writing, I thought I was writing for adult readers, people roughly between the ages of 20 and 50. I have now realised that I am not writing for that group of people at all: I write for everyone who likes a big adventure story; men and women, old and young. That said, the structure and language of novels like *Seven Ancient Wonders* is set at a "mature" level (my apologies to some parents for the swear words and the violence!). That the teenagers of WA are reading adult-level books impresses me greatly: it reveals a confident and advanced reading environment that is clearly nourished by attentive teachers and school librarians. So my sincere thanks also goes out to them.

Thank you so much for this award and to my young "nominators" for putting me forward. Have a lovely night, keep reading, and good luck to you all.

Very best wishes,
Matthew Reilly Sydney, NSW

