

Tuesday 22 March

Australian young adult literature organisation launches fundraising 'party' to kickstart work as registered charity

Seven years since its inception as a passionate, proactive, and much-loved grassroots movement, #LoveOzYA – a national organisation celebrating and promoting Australian youth literature – has become a registered charity.

The Australian Young Adult Literature Alliance, more affectionately known by our social media hashtag #LoveOzYA, promotes Australian youth literature with a particular focus on supporting diverse representation and lived experience perspectives in Australian YA.

To celebrate this massive milestone, #LoveOzYA is hosting a '#LoveOzYA Pozible Party' to give supporters of Australian YA the opportunity to kickstart #LoveOzYA's work as a fully fledged charity.

#LoveOzYA Pozible Party participants will be able to 'buy' party favours correlating to different contribution amounts – from \$5 to \$100 – to show their support for #LoveOzYA and its hard working team of volunteers.

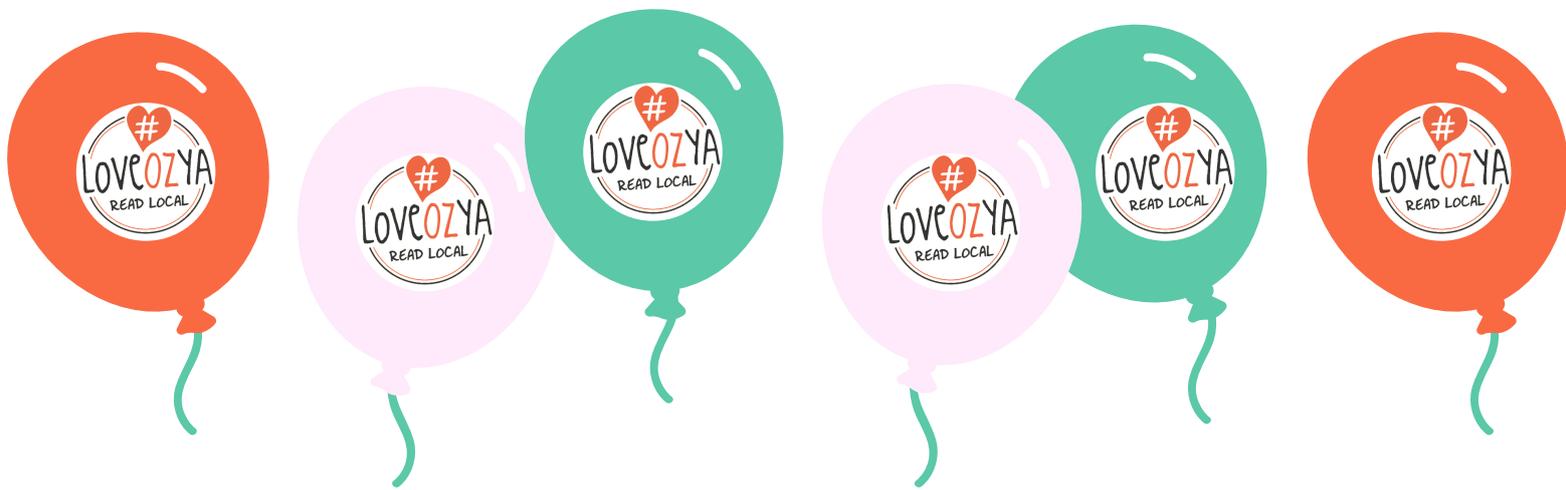
#LoveOzYA Secretary, Alice Boer-Endacott, says the first item on the wish list is a new-and-improved website, specifically designed so our distinct audiences – educators, writers, and readers – can easily find the latest news, interviews, book lists, and classroom resources showcasing Australia's young adult stories.

"Our research suggests Australian readers and educators want to support homegrown young adult literature, but don't always know where or how to find it – which is where #LoveOzYA comes in," Alice says.

"We're really excited about opportunities that will open up as a result of attaining charity status because they'll help us spread the word about amazing Australian young adult titles further than ever before."

Research suggests young Australians enjoy reading about people and places they can relate to, and directly benefit from stories that promote empathy, inclusivity, and diversity within Australian society and culture.

It also tells us that getting homegrown young adult stories into the hands of young Australians isn't just a nice idea: Australian-based narratives allow Australian teens to self-conceptualise and to explore and interrogate Australian identity.



Some of Australia's most beloved authors for young people have thrown their support behind #LoveOzYA's campaign by sharing testimonials about the tangible impact the volunteer-run organisation has had on their careers.

These include:

- **Lisa Fuller:** "Without #LoveOzYA there wouldn't be such an amazing community, or the sense of support for each other."
- **Kay Kerr:** "Without #LoveOzYA I would not have found my agent, published two pieces of my heart, or connected with readers. What a sad thought!"
- **Alison Evans:** "Without #LoveOzYA I would not have found my friends, endless inspiration and beautiful books! The community that #LoveOzYA provides brings me so much joy and it's wonderful feeling so connected to one another."
- **Tobias Madden:** "Without #LoveOzYA, I honestly don't think I'd be a published author right now!"

Readers, writers, and educators who are passionate about Australian young adult literature will be able to support the fundraising campaign by donating via this link: www.pozible.com/profile/loveozya-pozible-party.

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Background:

- #LoveOzYA centres the experiences and aspirations of Australian teen readers and aims to connect them with great Australian young adult (YA) books and authors. We do this by:
 - promoting national and international awareness of Australian YA books and authors
 - encouraging readers of all ages to discover and read Australian youth literature
 - creating educational resources, interviewing authors, and generating other forms of original content all about Australian young adult literature
 - undertaking collaborative initiatives with organisations in the education and arts and cultural sectors, including schools, publishers, booksellers, libraries, cultural organisations and communities
 - advocating for the success and reputation of Australian youth literature in all its diverse and varied forms.
- #LoveOzYA was founded in 2015, and became a not-for-profit organisation, incorporated under the name the Australian Young Adult Literature Alliance, in late 2021. The #LoveOzYA team currently comprises of 10 members, based throughout Australia.

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