

2016 Hazel Edwards' Profile

Hazel Edwards (1945-) was born in Melbourne, qualified as a primary teacher and graduated from Monash University after studying while teaching fulltime. Her first YA novel was 'General Store (1972). Her first child was born in the same year. Best known is her picture book series 'There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake' (1980) illustrated by Deborah Niland. This is touring nationally as the musical 'Hippo! Hippo!'

She has written 200 books for adults and children including the recently controversial 'f2m: the boy within' and 'Hijabi Girl'. Adult titles include 'Difficult Personalities' and 'Writing a Non Boring Family History'. Her works are published in Chinese, Korean, Finnish, Japanese, Russian, Braille and Auslan signing.

Recipient of an 2001 Antarctic Fellowship, she researched on an expedition to Australia's Casey Base in Antarctica and has published Antarctic themed stories in multi-media.

Her works are published in the UK and USA and Asia and she was the first Nanjing International Cultural Exchange author ambassador with dual language projects. Hazel is a national Reading Ambassador for numerous literacy groups including YABBA and the Premiers' Reading Challenge.

Honors include ALMA nomination 2012,2011 and 2010 and the ASA medal (Australian Society of Authors) 2009. In 2013 she was awarded an OAM for services to Literature.

One of Australia's foremost writers for young people, Hazel is a director on the board of the Australian Society of Authors. "Not Just a Piece of Cake; Being an Author' her unconventional memoir was released in 2015.

www.hazeledwards.com

(250 words)

