



WRITERS SA

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



WRITERS SA

2020 AT WRITERS SA

Acknowledgement of Country

Writers SA is located on Kurna land. We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the Adelaide region and pay our respects to elders past and present. We recognise the Kurna people as the original storytellers of this place and we celebrate the important role of First Nations writers in guiding our collective future.

Vision

To place South Australian writers and writing at the forefront of Australian literary culture, and to champion the contribution of writers to our state's creative, economic and cultural development.

Our Values

Excitement—

- We are inspired by language and storytelling
- We foster a thriving sector and community
- We share our love for writing with audiences

Curiosity—

- We invent and experiment
- We collaborate and make connections
- We revel in innovative solutions

Impact—

- We are resilient, and good listeners
- We prioritise difference, inclusivity and diversity
- We make real change in communities and industry

Drive—

- We work towards imaginative possibilities
- We learn, grow and improve
- We strive to be the best organisation we can be.

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WRITERS SA

About Us

Writers SA was established in 1985 as the SA Writers Centre. We are a not for profit membership organisation, incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act (SA), and governed by a Board of Management, in accordance with its Rules, and delegates the daily operations of the organisation to a Director.

Writers SA generates income through membership fees, ticket sales, project and fee for service activities and we are supported for our core activities through multi-year funding from the Government of South Australia via Arts South Australia.

Writers SA has also been the recipient of grants from the Australia Council and is in partnership with the City of Adelaide Libraries to deliver workshops and events.

Writers SA is a purpose-driven arts organisation that is supported by a shared vision and an engaged organisational culture. We have a reputation for ambition and excellence, reflected in our work in community engagement and audience development, and our commitment to high calibre programming and practices.

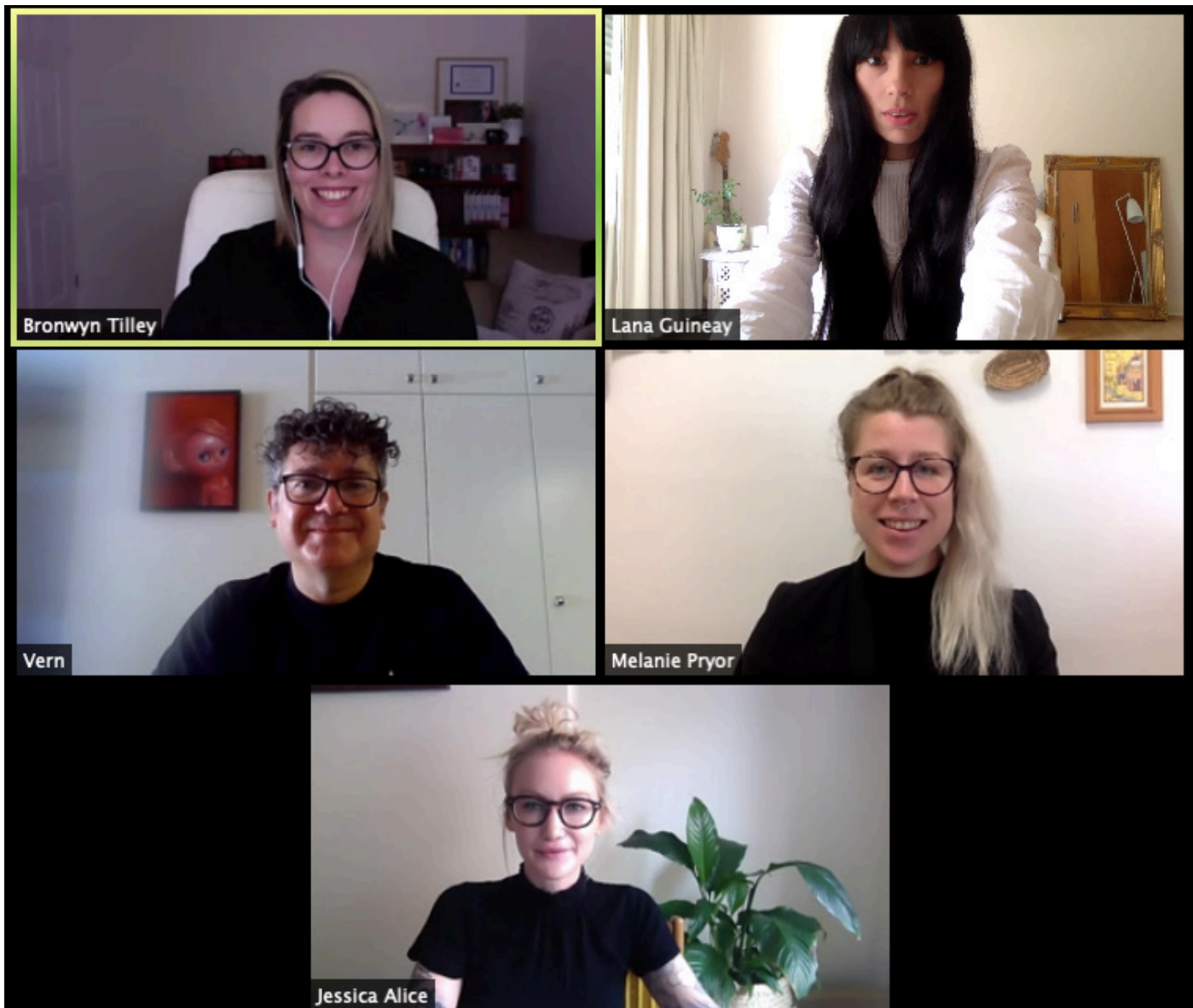
Writers SA is unique in the diversity of our members and artists, who come from all ages, backgrounds, locations and cultures. Many face barriers and disabilities to full participation in our society. We are committed to supporting all writers.

Staff

Jessica Alice	Director
Bronwyn Tilley	Program Coordinator
Lana Guineay	Marketing Coordinator
Zac Brandon-Smith	Membership & Administration Coordinator (until January 2020)
Melanie Pryor	Membership & Administration Coordinator (from February 2020)
Edoardo Crismani	SA First Nations Writers Group Coordinator
Jane Bell	Finance Officer (until February 2020)
Vernon Schulz	Finance Officer (from March 2020)
Alfie Simpson	Event Assistant
Alysha Herrmann	Digital Event Assistant (from June 2020)
Nelya Valamanesh	Digital Event Assistant (from August 2020)
Ryan J Morrison	Digital Event Assistant (from August 2020)

Board

Amanda Grocock	Chair
Jane Howard	Deputy Chair
Theresa Williams	Treasurer
David Sefton	David Sefton (until April 2020)
Amy Matthews	Amy Matthews (until May 2020)
Susan Errington	Susan Errington Board Member
Alan Atkinson	Board Member
Jill Jones	Board Member
Tracy Crisp	(elected May 2020)
Ben Stubbs	(elected May 2020)
Manal Younus	(co-opted May 2020)
Justyna Jochym	(co-opted May 2020)



The Writers SA staff attending a Zoom team meeting

Our Supporters

ORGANISATION FUNDING



Government of South Australia

Arts South Australia

PROJECT FUNDING



Australian Government

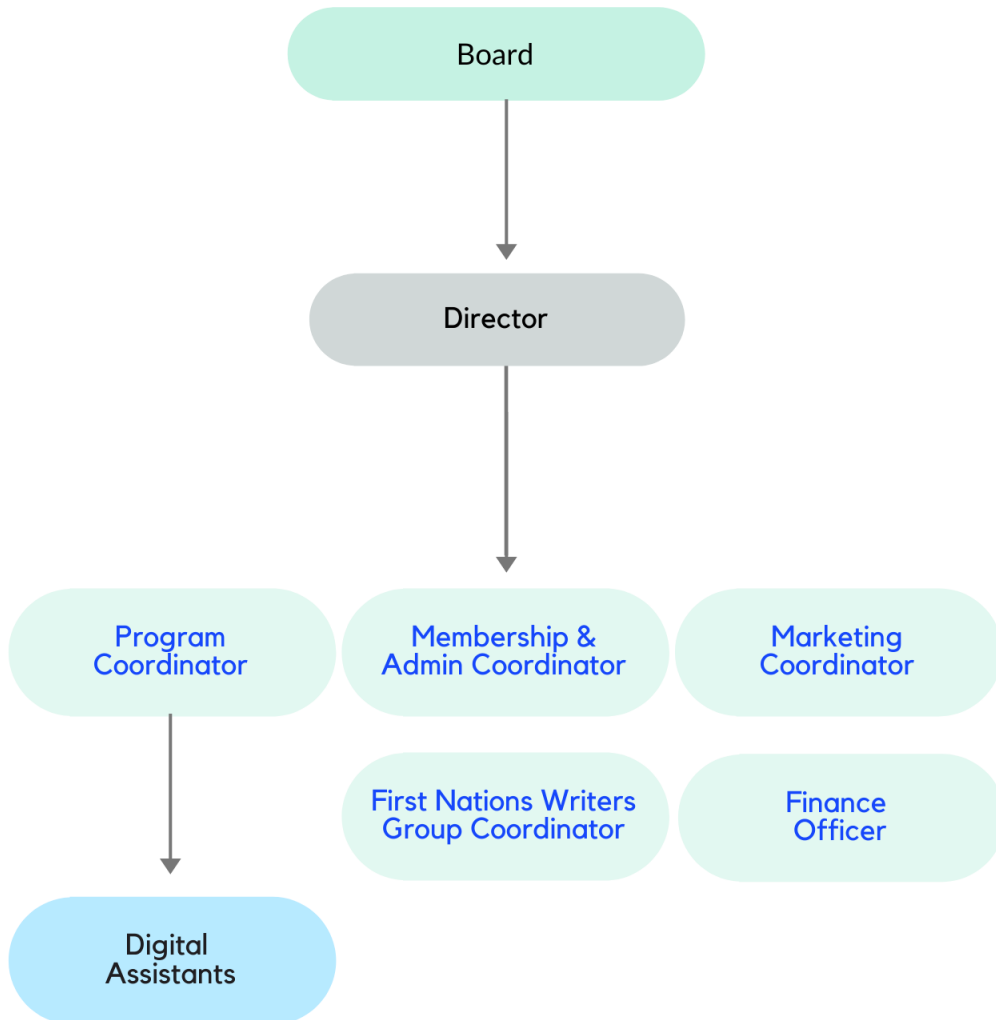


Aēsop®

VENUE PARTNERS



Structure and Management



Letter from the Chair



2020 presented challenges beyond our expectations, and I could not be prouder of the Writers SA team and organisation for leading our community through an unprecedented time and emerging a more resilient, focused and financially stable business.

In early 2020, as now, the full impact of Covid-19 on the global health, welfare and economic viability were unknown. The implications of the virus on our day-to-day lives was soon felt however, and it became clear that our traditional revenue sources were likely to be significantly and negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Ever-present in our minds was maintaining our vision to place South Australian writers and writing at the forefront of Australian literary culture, and to champion the contribution of writers to our state's creative, economic and cultural development, and making sure that we emerged strong after the crisis.

WSA Director Jessica Alice shone throughout the challenges of 2020, showing her innate care and passion for the South Australian writing community. Without Jessica's effort and energy, Writers SA would not have been able to attract significant grant funding throughout the year, increase our workforce in a time when work was hard to come by for many, and continue to service our community throughout.

The Writers SA Board was proud to support Jessica to:

- increase internal resourcing
- transition the organisation's service delivery to online mechanisms
- reintroduce face-to-face delivery and events when it became appropriate, and
- advocate for financial support via JobKeeper, grant applications and rent relief.

Utilising the Writers SA Strategic Plan to guide our decision making in 2020, the Board was able to remain committed to:

- ensuring the experiences and opportunities we offered were relevant, enjoyable and appreciated
- servicing the needs and wants of members
- providing and supporting services that further Writers SA's purpose, and
- positioning Writers SA to achieve its ambitions, now and into the future.

To this end, it is outstanding to see that membership of Writers SA increased by 2% in 2020, with member consultations increasing by 173%; a sure sign that the services we offered were not only valuable, but remained accessible. As a member-based organisation we would have no reason to exist, nor purpose to deliver, without you. Thank you for believing in what Writers SA stands for and engaging and participating in the program on offer.

Having been established in 1985 Writers SA celebrated its 35th year in 2020, although our attention was rightly elsewhere. Regardless, operating for over 35 years is an honour and a legacy that is not lost on the outstanding group of talented professionals who make up the Writers SA Board.

I thank all of my Board colleagues for acknowledging the privilege it is to support Writers SA and for their hard work, intelligence and diligence throughout what has been a challenging year. We continue to be fortunate to be represented by such an esteemed and experienced group.

As we navigate new challenges in 2021, I recognise that we are a community of individuals creating a future that we can all be proud of. With Jessica at the helm, and a Board committed to the longevity and sustainability of Writers SA, I look forward to what comes next. Bolstered by Writers SA's outstanding results for 2020, I remain confident that Writers SA has undertaken the rigorous planning and self-assessment needed to ride the waves of change, whilst delivering exceptional service to our members and funding partners.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Grocock', written in a cursive style.

AMANDA GROCOCK | Chairperson

Writers SA

Letter From the Director



Looking back on 2020, it's remarkable how the shock of the pandemic alters our sense of time—the event that impacted the world in one of the first truly global ways was nevertheless bookended at Writers SA with celebration events in-person with our members first in February then in December. For this I am most thankful, that despite all the challenges felt at individual, organisational and social levels, Writers SA maintained our commitment to our community and rose to the occasion to support South Australian writers in one of the biggest years in history.

This was achieved through the hard work of our staff, who swiftly and successfully transitioned Writers SA's programs and services to full online delivery while we worked at home. Our digital programming was one way we continued to provide employment to our state's writers, who delivered a unique range of workshops, writing programs and presentations online. We welcomed three brilliant new Digital Event Assistants to help get us there—Alysha Herrmann, Nelya Valamanesh and Ryan Morrison. In January we farewelled Zachary Brandon-Smith and welcomed Melanie Pryor into the role of Memberships and Administration Coordinator, as well as Vernon Schulz who joined us as Finance Officer.

In 2020 we welcomed new partnerships and launched new projects, and we continued to employ writers to deliver workshops and author talks. For the first time, we also commissioned book reviews in a new initiative of literary criticism with the late Adelaide Review and now InDaily. We continued to support the SA First Nations Writers Group, the Deaf Storytellers, and the poetry community Soul Lounge. We awarded fellowships for young writers and awarded literary prizes for students, queer writers and people writing about mental health. We sustained and grew our diverse writing community, celebrating storytelling in all its forms.

My thanks to the board of Writers SA, particularly Chair Amanda Grocock and Treasurer Theresa Williams, whose contributions to the governance of the organisation cannot be overstated. I extend immense gratitude to the team at Arts South Australia for supporting our state's creative sector throughout the pandemic with emergency funding and innovative new programs, and to Australia Council for the Arts for their tireless sector support. Thank you too to venue and programming partners at the State Library of South Australia and Adelaide City Libraries.

To all the writers who released books into what felt like the ether that was 2020, I congratulate you and assure you that your hard work has not gone unnoticed. What stands out the most to me is that 2020 was one of the strongest years ever for South Australian literature—with more fiction, non-fiction and poetry demonstrating the immense literary talent of this place we call home. To everyone in our community, particularly our members, and regardless of your creative output amid the disruption of the past year, I commend the fortitude that you have shown, the dedication to your craft and to your community, and your enduring creativity and curiosity—thank you for joining us in 2020. Onwards.

JESSICA ALICE

Director | Writers SA

Our Objectives and Activities

MEMBERSHIP

Our members are the heart of Writers SA. Membership provides access to a community of writers and special events and resources. Members benefit from a 30% discount on prices for all workshops and resources, and are invited to attend exclusive social and networking gatherings. In 2020, despite working from home for months at a time during the pandemic, our staff provided professional support to members, covering everything from information about publishing and pathways to publication, to writing processes and industry advice.

Just before regular socialising was changed by Covid-19, we met for summer literary drinks at the bar 55ml in February. We were able to wrap up the year with another in-person gathering: our end-of-year celebration at the Belgian Beer Café in December, which was a booked-out event and a wonderful way to reconnect and acknowledge the unprecedented year we'd all experienced.

Despite working remotely, we were able to retain close contact with Writers SA members over Zoom, and our Director still got to know new members through free consultations – available to all new and renewing members. We ended 2020 with 718 financial members, an increase from 2019, with one third of our membership comprised of new faces as we welcomed 234 new members during the year to Writers SA.



225%

Increase in
mentorships



13%

Increase in
manuscript assessments



234

New members



173%

Increase in
member consultations

MEMBER RESOURCES

Writers SA offers professional services for writers, employing established writers and industry professionals to share their expertise in the industry.

Manuscript Assessments: Writers SA offers writers access to a professional, independent reading and assessment service. All our assessors are industry professionals, with many years' experience in reading, assessing, reviewing, representing and publishing manuscripts.

Consultations: We offer complimentary advisory consultations for members of Writers SA who have writing, publishing and creative career queries. These informative meetings can be conducted in person, over the phone, or video conference, and are a special members-only resource. Full, paid consultation are also available to both members and non-members at tiered prices, with a discount for members.



2020 end of year event at the Belgian Beer Cafe

Mentorships: The Writers SA mentorship program is designed to connect our members with a suitable, formal mentor, at any stage of their writing careers. From writing craft, editing, pre-publication, to marketing and publicity mentorships – and encompassing a wide range of genres – Writers SA assists early-career writers to find the mentor to guide their creativity to the next level.

In 2020 the number of member services we delivered increased across the board. We employed professionals to deliver 13 literary mentorships to our members, which is triple what we provided in 2019, and 17 manuscript assessments. We provided 41 free professional consultations to new members, which is more than double what we delivered in 2019, and four full consultations.

PROGRAM

Workshops & Core Events



2020 workshop presenters, L-R: Katerina Bryant, Ruby Hamad, Benjamin Law

Our 2020 program started amazingly well with eight workshops, Adelaide Writers' Week Writers' Studio events, the First Draft and Teen Writers Club programs and a summer mixer, before we were forced to pause and rethink because of the worldwide pandemic. We put most of March and April on hold to refashion our event and professional development offerings to be delivered online. This alternative direction meant we could engage more interstate and overseas artists to teach workshops such as creating locations you've never visited, getting through writer's block, and top tips from an international bestselling author, now living in Ireland. Increasing our accessibility also reached participants in Spain, England and remote areas of Australia. We created our first on-demand workshop which attracted 41 participants.

We engaged 31 authors, agents, publishers, and speakers to deliver 35 workshops, which were attended by 796 participants across venues such as City Library, Hutt St Library, Flinders University and The State Library of SA, and Zoom with a positive feedback rating of 95.91%.

Our Teen Writers Club had a total of 24 meetings with 28 attendees across three terms with two facilitators, and our Manuscript Incubator helped 14 writers with their manuscripts, our First Draft program helped 13. We hosted four free in-person events attracting 126 attendees including our networking drinks, Think Tanks and Christmas party. We were supported by five volunteers and hired three casual workshop assistants to facilitate the online events. We will continue to program under the model of in-person and online into the future.

A new partnership with Fabrik in the Adelaide Hills also saw our first ever online workshop mini-series turned into an art installation with 17 people attending three dedicated workshop events.

The Writers and Readers in Residency Program was put on hold and will resume in 2021 with four artists spending approximately 10 weeks in remote and regional South Australia delivering workshops, speaking to students, and holding consults with local residents.

The 2020 Varuna residency was awarded to Phoebe Paterson de Heer and will be taken up in early 2021 due to travel restrictions.

Literary Sector Development

DIVERSIFYING AUSTRALIAN WRITING PLAN



Taylor Winston, Alex Vansilalom, Matcho Cassidy, Chris Best and Jessica Alice -- Pic: The Adelaide Review, Sia Duff

In 2020, Writers SA supported our local and national literary sector through delivery of the Diversifying Australian Writing Plan. The plan, assisted by the Australia Council for the Arts, supports a coordinator position for the SA First Nations Writers Group, and an interstate exchange program for diverse young poets at Soul Lounge, awards for LGBTQIA+ writers in partnership with Feast Festival, and the nurturing of young writers through residencies at Varuna in New South Wales.

Edoardo Crismani led the SA First Nations Writers Group throughout 2020, navigating the challenges of Covid-19 and resuming group meetings online to protect the health and safety of the community. Through a great year of meetings, the group saw guest presentations from YA author Jared Thomas and Magabala Books publisher Rachel Bin Salleh, and the group grew in size from just a few members to over one hundred.

Matcho Cassidy, coordinator of Soul Lounge, steered the poetry community through the tumultuous year, and with Writers SA's support engaged a number of interstate exchanges and many well-attended digital events, live streamed around Australia, with writers including Thabani Tshuma, SanSan Ja, Dinali Devasagayam, Bior D Aguer and Kaya Lattimore.



Deaf Storyteller's event at Adelaide Writers' Week

Writers SA once again presented the Feast Short Story Competition in 2020 to support queer writers, and we were overwhelmed with the breadth of talent and the richness of experience reflected in the entries. The winners across all age categories were Haydan L. Toms and Lorraine Tyler, with highly commended entries from Dan Ayres, Sheridan Wachtel, Ted Settnikar and Mick Godfrey. We thank Feast and in particular Margie Fischer for her vision in bringing this event and this competition to life. Congratulations to all the writers and those who performed at the celebration event Rapid Fire at the festival.

Writers SA was proud to present Deaf Storytellers Live at Adelaide Writers Week, a performance event featuring writers Joanna Agius OAM, Debra Swann, Paul Bartlett and Stuart Anderson. Over six months the group developed stories and poems with mentors Hannah Kent, Manal Younus, Sean Williams and Jared Thomas, as part of Writers SA's Diversifying Australian Writing plan. Congratulations to Jo, Deb, Paul and Stuart, and thanks again to our team of mentors and interpreters. This was the first in a two-year program to develop literary connections with the Deaf community and will continue into 2021, and is supported by Aesop Foundation and Australia Council for the Arts.

This year we awarded the 2020 Writers SA Varuna Fellowship to Phoebe Paterson de Heer who spent a week at Varuna, the National Writers' House in the Blue Mountains, writing and developing her craft.

Our Writers and Readers in Residence program was paused for 2020 and will resume when it is safe to resume.

Partnerships



A YEAR IN REVIEW

In July 2020, Writers SA launched a national literary criticism series A Year in Review, where we published reviews of books released during the pandemic—from March 2020 to March 2021—in partnerships with The Adelaide Review. The project sought to support a culture of literary criticism in Australia by providing important coverage to Australian authors affected by Covid-19, and a valuable platform for emerging critics. Shortly after launch, like many arts publications affected by the pandemic, The Adelaide Review shut down. Solstice Media, who publish across CityMag, SA Life and InDaily, came on board the project as the new publishing partner.

The first to be published in the series was Kylie Maslen's review of *Rise and Shine* by Adelaide author Patrick Allington in The Adelaide Review in June 2020. Throughout the rest of the year, the following reviews were published across various media outlets:

- *Smart Ovens for Lonely People* by Elizabeth Tan (Brio), reviewed by Kylie Maslen for The Adelaide Review, July 2020.
- *A Lonely Girl is a Dangerous Thing* by Jessie Tu (Allen and Unwin), reviewed by Manal Younus for The Adelaide Review, September 2020.
- *Kokomo* by Victoria Hannan (Hachette), reviewed by Kylie Maslen for The Adelaide Review, September 2020.
- *Money for Something* by Mia Walsch (Allen and Unwin/Echo), reviewed by Katerina Bryant for InDaily, November 2020.
- *Show Me Where It Hurts* by Kylie Maslen (Text), reviewed by Laura la Rosa for InDaily, November 2020.
- *Dreams They Forgot* by Emma Ashmere (Wakefield Press), reviewed by Mindy Gill for InDaily, December 2020.
- *Guwaya: For All Times* ed. by Jeanine Leane (Magabala Books), reviewed by Susie Anderson for InDaily, December 2020.

MINDSHARE AWARDS

In October 2020 Writers SA partnered with mindshare and the Mental Health Coalition of SA to present to the 2020 mindshare awards. Entries of original creative writing were open to South Australians with lived experience of mental illness. mindshare works alongside creatives living with complex mental health challenges who have identified expressive arts or storytelling as an important tool in their recovery journey.

Developed as a partnership between the Mental Health Coalition of SA and the Media Resource Centre, mindspace is a space that invites the general public to share personal experiences or thoughts connected to mental health, either in everyday observations or through art and storytelling.

After having received over 140 entries to the competition, the awards were presented at Poetry Prescribed, a Mental Health Week poetry showcase in partnership with the Draw Your (S)words, at Chateau Apollo on Friday 16 October 2020. Writers SA Director Jessica Alice presented awards to winners Clarence Kulpe, Sara Cavaiuolo, Nadia Patterson and Oliver Harris. All shortlisted pieces were displayed in the Adelaide City Library as part of the Mental Health Week group mindshare exhibition.

INSITE: PORTRAYALS OF A PANDEMIC

InSite: Portrayals of a Pandemic was a letter-writing and skills development project developed by Writers SA and Fabrik that took place over a three-month duration from June to August 2020. The project consisted of three skills development writing workshops (one per month) and the writing and exchange of letters (one per month) by participants.

Fabrik is an arts organisation based in the Lobethal Woollen Mill in the Adelaide Hills, and is an initiative of the Adelaide Hills Council. Fabrik offers programs, workshops, and exhibitions to bring community together through creative activity and provide a space for an ever-growing network of artists to share, create and collaborate.

At its core this project used the arts to build connections and to invest in participants' wellbeing. It was intended to inspire (via self-reflection), extend (via literary skills development) and uplift (by way of sharing reflections of self-in-place) during Covid-19.

Each letter was photographed when received by Fabrik, prior to being forwarded to its intended recipient.

The aim of InSite was to merge the networks of both organisations during a time when our communities were unable to gather face to face; to document this moment in history of life in Australia during Covid-19; and connect with others through the nostalgic process of letter writing.

From June to August, the project hosted Melanie Knight, the founder of Melbourne's Dead Letter Club, author of *Dear World: Contemporary Uses of the Diary*, Dr Kylie Cardell, and renowned poet Jill Jones. The project culminated in an exhibition of the letters at Fabrik from 19 February – 14 March 2021.

Online Engagement



Most popular posts on social media in 2020

Writers SA continued to broaden our reach, sharing our workshops, initiatives, and content, engaging with new and established audiences through our own site, social media, and e-news; as well as gaining positive coverage from local and national media in 2020.

Our website remains a cornerstone of our communications, and is regularly updated with blog articles, news, opportunities, and resources on all aspects of writing, with 43 posts published including Q+As with industry professionals and speakers, resources, giveaways and more.

In 2020, our free weekly newsletter provided information about workshops, writing life and opportunities to 4,993 subscribers, with above industry-average open rates and conversion. The unique visitors to our site increased over the year, reaching nearly 26,000. Our social media following also increased, rising to 7,350 Twitter followers, while Facebook topped 6,617, and we expanded our overall digital footprint with increased interstate and regional South Australian reach.

Attendance summary (digital):

Number of unique hits: 25991	Number of followers - Facebook: 6617
Number of page views: 103709	Number of Followers - Instagram: 2515
Number of e-news subscribers: 4993	Number of followers - Twitter: 7350

Content performance:

Owned online content	> Writers SA Website 25,991 unique views 103,709 page views 43 blog posts Partnerships/giveaways with Allen & Unwin, Feminist Writers' Festival, Roadshow, UQP, Studiocanal, Palace Nova, Madman entertainment.
Writers SA eDMs	Weekly e-news 4,993 subscribers 52 editions Member only news 5 editions
Social media	> Facebook 6617 followers > Twitter 7350 followers > Instagram 2515 followers
Traditional media	10 items



Treasurer's Report

The SA Writers Centre Inc. (trading as Writers SA) concluded its financial year with an operating surplus of \$207,001, compared to the surplus of \$35,206 made in 2019. Much of this surplus can be attributed to additional Government support received and savings made due to changes to the 2020 program in response to Covid-19. At year end, retained surplus (members' funds) stood at \$263,995.

The coronavirus pandemic saw Writers SA move workshops online for part of the year. Income generated from both online and in-person workshops for 2020 was \$86,621 which compared favourably to the income generated in 2019 of \$87,751. Membership income also increased from \$37,782 to \$40,165. Grant income continues to be our largest income stream at \$218,491, however it is lower than the amount received in 2019 as to some programs, which are specifically funded through grants, were postponed until 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Writers SA also received both the PAYG Cash Flow Boost (\$38,000) and the Job Keeper Subsidy (\$105,900) from the Federal Government as part of its response to Covid-19. Writers SA continues to have healthy cash reserves, with cash at bank at year end being \$478,412.

2020 presented Writers SA with numerous challenges, least of which were those presented by the coronavirus pandemic. Despite these challenges, Writers SA continues to deliver a strong program and provided valuable service to its members of writers, stakeholders and the general public. New initiatives developed in response to Covid-19 will continue on into 2021 and ensure Writers SA remains a viable organisation into the future.

Theresa Williams | Treasurer

Writers SA

Audited Financials



Directors
Dean Withers, CA
Michael Fairlie, CA

Associates
Peter Whitehead, FCA
Janine Thornley, CA

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SA WRITERS CENTRE INC.

Report on the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of the SA Writers Centre Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and a statement by members of the committee on the financial statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the SA Writers Centre Inc. as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (South Australia), and Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the SA Writers Centre Inc. to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (South Australia) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our Opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

withersadvisory.com.au

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ABN 15 067 089 794

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Professional Standards Legislation

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Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (South Australia) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australia Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, internal omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

WITHERS ADVISORY

Chartered Accountants



Peter K Whitehead- Associate.

**Dated this 4th day of May 2021
Frewville, South Australia**

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

Your board members submit the special purpose financial report of SA Writers' Centre Inc for the year ended 31 December 2020.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the association during the financial period were to promote the South Australian writing industry, initiative and people.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the period.

OPERATING RESULT

The surplus from ordinary activities for the year amounted to \$207,001 (A surplus of \$35,206 in 2019).

During the financial year no officer of the Association, nor firm of which an officer is a member, nor a body corporate in which the officer has a substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between an officer, firm or body corporate and the Association except for as detailed below:

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board.


.....
Chairperson


.....
Treasurer

Dated this 12th day of April 2021.

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Advertising	-	1,050
Donations & Philanthropy	20,792	1,409
Grant Income	218,491	267,158
Interest	955	800
Memberships	40,165	37,782
Program Delivery Fees	3,125	23,630
Sundry Income	1,221	35
Workshop Fees	71,021	87,751
Other Writing Services	18,600	13,654
Job Keeper Subsidy	105,900	-
PAYG Cash Flow Boost	38,000	-
	<u>518,270</u>	<u>433,269</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Artist and Consultant Fees	40,124	67,331
Staff Wages and On-costs	231,076	217,310
Program Expenses	11,943	31,903
Sector, Prof & Community Develop.	-	4,284
Marketing, Promotion and Fundraising	6,937	3,875
Administration and Infrastructure	20,179	72,177
Depreciation	1,010	1,183
	<u>311,269</u>	<u>398,063</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS	<u>207,001</u>	<u>35,206</u>
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
	<u>207,001</u>	<u>35,206</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS	<u>207,001</u>	<u>35,206</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	478,412	291,265
Trade and Other Receivables	3	1,476	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>479,888</u>	<u>291,265</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and Equipment	4	4,313	5,323
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>484,201</u>	<u>296,588</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	5	33,823	29,866
Income In Advance	6	172,473	200,322
Employee Provisions	7	13,910	9,407
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>220,206</u>	<u>239,595</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>220,206</u>	<u>239,595</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>263,995</u>	<u>56,993</u>
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Retained Surplus		263,995	56,993
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS		<u>263,995</u>	<u>56,993</u>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2019	21,787	21,787
Surplus for the period	35,206	25,206
Balance at 31 December 2019	56,993	56,993
Balance at 1 January 2020	56,993	56,993
Surplus for the period	207,001	207,001
Balance at 31 December 2020	263,995	263,995

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from Customers		132,409	88,756
Grants		211,682	343,713
Job Keeper/PAYG Cash Flow Boost		143,900	-
Interest Received		955	800
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(301,799)	(297,868)
		-----	-----
Net Cash Provided By / (Used in) Operating Activities	8	187,147	135,401
		-----	-----
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for Plant and Equipment		-	(908)
		-----	-----
Net Cash (Used) in Investing Activities		-	-
		-----	-----
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash held		187,147	134,493
Cash at the Beginning of the Year		291,265	156,772
		-----	-----
Cash at the End of the Year	2	478,412	291,265
		=====	=====

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The members of the Board have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Entity is a non-reporting because there are no users dependent on a general purpose financial report. The financial report is therefore a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporations Act 1995* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations and the disclosure requirements of the following standards:

- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements;
- AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows;
- AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates & Errors;
- AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures;
- AASB 1031 Materiality; and
- AASB 1047 Interpretation and Application of Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs, and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Entity and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Grant revenue

Revenue from grant funding is recognised when the Entity gains control of the grant or the right to receive the grant, and it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the grant will flow to the Entity and the amount of the grant can be reliably measured.

When the grant relates to a specific period it is recognised as income of that period. If a grant is received prior to the specific period it is credited to a deferred income account until the commencement of the specific period.

When the grant relates to an asset, the fair value is credited to a deferred income account and is released to the income statement over the expected useful life of the relevant asset by equal annual instalments.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account interest rates applicable to the financial asset.

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT.)

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and short term deposits in the balance sheet comprise cash at bank and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less. For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents consists of the above.

Plant and Equipment

Plant and Equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the board to ensure that it does not exceed recoverable amount.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated on a Diminishing Value basis over the useful lives of the assets in the association commencing from the time the assets is held ready for use.

Employee Leave Provisions

Provision is made for the Entities liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. Contributions are made by the entity to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

Employee long service leave is accrued from when an employee reaches five years of service.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST is not recoverable from the tax authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the tax authority is included in the other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of the cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the tax authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable, or payable to, the tax authority.

Income Tax

Under section 50.10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, the association is exempt from income tax.

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT.)

Critical Accounting Judgements, Estimates and Assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are disclosed below.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The entity determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life of intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 1, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of the attrition rates and pay increases through promotion or inflation have been taken into account.

Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Going Concern

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis as the board have been assured continued financial support from grant funding organisations and the board believe that such support will continue to be made available to the association.

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	2020	2019
NOTE 2 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$	\$
Cash at Bank – Bendigo Bank	437,620	250,493
Bendigo DGR Account	40,792	40,772
	478,412	291,265
 NOTE 3 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
GST Receivable	1,476	-
	1,476	-
 NOTE 4 - PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Office Equipment – at cost	10,929	10,929
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(6,616)	(5,606)
	4,313	5,323
 NOTE 5 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	31,858	12,840
GST Payable	-	13,742
Payroll Liabilities	1,965	3,283
	33,823	29,865
 NOTE 6 - INCOME IN ADVANCE		
Grants in advance	157,866	164,675
Income in advance	9,994	28,616
Workshop fees in advance	4,613	7,031
	172,473	200,322
 NOTE 7 - EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS		
Provision for Annual Leave	13,910	9,407
	13,910	9,407

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTE 8 – RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATIONS

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) from Ordinary Activities	207,001	35,206
Non Cash flows in Ordinary Activities		
- Depreciation	1,010	1,183
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade and Other Receivables	(1,476)	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade and Other Payables	3,958	(15,027)
Increase/(Decrease) in Amounts in Advance	(27,848)	107,440
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	4,502	6,599
	-----	-----
CASH PROVIDED BY / (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	187,147	135,401
	=====	=====

NOTE 9 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No payments were made to related parties during the year ended 31 December 2020.

NOTE 10 – CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no contingent liabilities at 31 December 2020

NOTE 11 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No matters or circumstances has arisen since 31 December 2020 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Entity's operations, the results of those operations, or the entities state of affairs in future financial years.

SA WRITERS' CENTRE INC

STATEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The members of the board declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes to the financial statements, are in accordance with the *Associations Incorporations Act 1995* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:
 - a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the *Associations Incorporations Act 1995*;
 - b) give a true and fair view of the entities financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the boards opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the members of the board by:


.....
Chairperson


.....
Treasurer

Dated this 12th day of April 2021.

Acknowledgements

Writers SA extends deep thanks to all who engaged with us in 2020. From volunteers who bring such energy and dedication to the literary community, to the talented workshop and event presenters who share their skills and expertise every weekend, and to project partners and venues who house and present these events, we say thank you.

Partners:

Fabrik & The Adelaide Hills Council, City of Campbelltown, Flinders University, Adelaide City Council and City Libraries, State Library of South Australia, mindshare, Feast Festival, Adelaide Writers Week, Adelaide Review, InDaily.

Authors:

Claire Connelly SA	Jessica Alice SA	Jill Jones SA
Victoria Purman SA	John Marsden VIC	Mark Tredinnick NSW
Bronwyn Tilley SA	Ben Law NSW	Sandy Vaile SA
Dr Madeleine Says SA	Lee Koffman VIC	TJ Hamilton NSW
Eileen Ormsby VIC	Jeri Kroll SA	Isobelle Carmody VIC
Gabiann Marin NSW	Danielle Clode SA	James Bradley NSW
Kylie Maslen SA	Katerina Bryant SA	Ruby Hamad NSW
Louise Park WA	Tony Park NSW	Aislinn Kearns SA
Melanie Knight VIC	Dr Scott Zarcinas SA	Melanie Ostell VIC
Kylie Cardell SA	Alicia Carter (Teens) SA	Monica McInerny Ireland
Jason Fischer (Teens) SA	Jared Thomas (SA)	Rachel Bin Salleh (WA)
SanSan Ja (SA)	Thabani Tony Tshuma (VIC)	Dinali Devasagayam (SA)
Kaya Lattimore (WA)	Bior D Aguer (SA)	

Teen Writers Club presenters – Alicia Carter, Jason Fischer

Deaf Storytellers participants – Joanna Agius, Stuart Anderson, Debra Swann, Paul Bartlett

SA First Nations Writers Group coordinator – Edoardo Crismani

Soul Lounge coordinator – Matcho Intrumz Cassidy

Mentors – Jason Fischer, Rebekkah Clarkson, Aislinn Kearns, Alan Atkinson, Jane Turner Goldsmith, Victoria Purman, Heather Taylor Johnson, Scott Zarcinas, Adam Cece, Leisl Leighton, Ben Stubbs, Jennifer Mills

Manuscript Assessors – Heather Taylor Johnson, Jessica Alice, Alicia Carter, Patrick Allington, TJ Hamilton, Michael X Savvas, Gay Lynch, Heather Millar, Adam Cece, Lisa L. Hannett, Sumudu Narayana, Alan Atkinson

Reviewers – Kylie Maslen, Manal Younus, Katerina Bryant, Laura La Rosa, Mindy Gill, Susie Anderson.

How you can help

Become a member

Writers SA members are writers, editors, publishers, journalists, poets, songwriters, screenwriters, academics, readers, arts workers, and supporters of literature. Our members are invited to regular social events, exclusive workshops, and receive a discount on all our services. Members also get access to professional opportunities, industry events, marketing and promotional support, and importantly, ensure the ongoing operation of Writers SA. Anyone can join as a member of Writers SA and is the best way to support local writers and a thriving literary culture.

Volunteer your time

We value our volunteers and are committed to ensuring the experience is positive and useful. Writers SA strives to provide industry pathways for our alumni. Volunteering with Writers SA offers a chance to learn new skills, get ready for the workforce and gain first-hand experience of a professional arts organisation. Register your details with us and we will notify you of any suitable opportunities.

Make a donation

As an independent not-for-profit literary organisation we need your help to support South Australian writers and writing. You can contact us at info@writerssa.org.au or on 08 82237662 to arrange a donation and receive a tax deductible receipt. Your contribution helps us to employ more writers to deliver professional services for our members and partners.

Become a corporate partner

Writers SA is a dynamic organisation that delivers bespoke workshop programs for our partners, including business writing, grammar and punctuation, copywriting, marketing and communications, and letter and report writing. We tailor events to suit a range of participants, durations and audiences, including full-day programs, performances, and information sessions. Reach out to discuss how Writers SA can support you and your business.

Other ways you can help

We value engagement with writers, readers and the writing-adjacent at all levels. Come along to a Writers SA workshop or event, read our blog, or recommend our services to an emerging writer. Connect with us on social media and let us know why you value writing and literature.



Winter program launch collateral



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