



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2025 AT

WRITERS SA

Writers SA is based on the traditional Yerta and Kauwi (lands and waters) of the Kaurna people. Ngadludlu tampinhi, parnaku tuwila yartangka. We acknowledge their custodianship of Tarntanya and of the Greater Adelaide region. We respect the Kaurna and other First Nations peoples and their ongoing culture; the first stories, the first lore of these lands. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. Munaintyanangku, tunturri.

Mission

To foster the development of writing culture in South Australia by promoting, encouraging and assisting writers and writing activities.

Vision 2023 - 2025

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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About Us

Writers SA is the state's peak organisation for writing and literature, putting South Australian writers at the forefront of national literary culture. We support writers to forge connections, take vital opportunities and access industry pathways. We champion South Australian writing and create spaces where readers can connect with writers.

We deliver across three main pillars of work.

Writers Path – professional development services, information and workshops, as part of the National Network of State Writing Centres. Focus of our work with members.

Public Program – connects readers and writers, as well as encouraging community writing from teens up.

Publication – producing *Splinter* journal along with one-off publications and publishing partnerships. Pathways to Publishing activities, advice and resources.

Established in 1985, Writers SA was the first writers' centre in Australia, and continues to showcase and promote the state's writers, placing them at the heart of Australian literary life. A resource for writers of all ages and experiences, we help both emerging and established writers on every aspect of writing craft, navigating working as a writer and publishing. A state-based organisation, we collaborate with interstate and international partners, and we are committed to advocating on behalf of all writers in Australia.

Our People

Staff

Laura Kroetsch	CEO (until February 2025)
Rainer Jozeps	Interim CEO (from March 2025 to May 2025)
Claire Hicks	CEO (from August 2025)
Katherine Woehlert	Operations Manager
Richard Barlow	Marketing Specialist (until March 2025)
Vernon Schulz	Finance Officer
Tamara Montana	Program Coordinator (until July 2025)
Bernadette Eden	Writer's Path Coordinator (from February 2025)
Farrin Foster	<i>Splinter</i> Journal Editor

Board

Tanya Wilkins	Chair
Nick Hays	Deputy Chair
Jane Howard	Board Member (until May 2025)
Rachel Spencer	Board Member
David Meldrum	Board Member
Mia Formichella	Board Member (until January 2025)
Truphena Mahindu	Board Member
Craig Phillips	Board Member
Rowena Vnuk	Board Member (from May 2025)
Annie Waters	Board Member (from May 2025)
Roger Monk	Board Member (from May 2025 until November 2025)

Our Supporters

WritersSA could not operate without the ongoing support of Create SA.

ORGANISATION FUNDING



Government of South Australia



CreateSA

KEY PARTNER



State Library
South Australia

PROJECT PARTNERS



Flinders University



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



UniSA

Creative



ADELAIDE
CITY COUNCIL

CITY
LIBRARIES



ADELAIDE
WRITERS'
WEEK



Chair's report



As I reflect on 2025 from my now outgoing role as Chair, I feel a deep sense of pride in the journey our Board and Team have travelled together. When people speak about change taking time, it's easy to assume they mean weeks, perhaps a month or two. But meaningful change rarely moves that quickly. In our case, 2025 was a sustained period of renewal. At times challenging, yet ultimately rewarding.

This chapter culminated in the appointment of our new CEO, Claire Hicks, toward the end of the year. Since stepping into the role, Claire has a clear and compelling direction, one that embraces both writers and readers through a strengthened suite of programs. This signals an exciting shift towards Writers SA becoming a place where writing, reading, storytelling and community can truly sit at the centre of cultural life in South Australia.

I would like to extend my wholehearted gratitude to Laura Kroetsch and Rainer Jozeps. Laura's vision of Writers SA as a place for both writers and readers helped set this momentum in motion, shaping not only what we deliver, but what we stand for. Rainer then took important steps to raise our profile and strengthen our connections.

At the end of 2025, I stepped down from the Board to return to my own writing. I did so with confidence in what lies ahead, and I encourage the Board and Team to continue boldly towards visibility, partnerships, community reach, and philanthropic opportunities.

While Writers SA may be small in size, literature itself is vast, enduring, and influential in everyday life. Writers SA is uniquely positioned as a grassroots powerhouse and a hub for literary activity, creative development, and connection. Not only across South Australia, but beyond.

TANYA WILKINS
Chair | Writers SA

CEO's report



As Tanya noted Laura had begun steering the organisation toward a broader vision celebrating the act of reading as well as writing; a vision that as a reader rather than a writer myself I am committed to.

Early in 2025 we were delighted once again to present in partnership with Adelaide Writers' Week and to continue in-person delivery both at the State Library and Adelaide City Library with diverse offerings from book launches, poetry panels with Red Room and Context Writers Festival (run since 2019), admirably steered by Tamara Montina with guest curator Justina Ashman. Adam Cece continued to lead Teen Writers Club (Tarntanya/Adelaide) with young writers finishing the year by creating work for an anthology - Afterlife (launched in February 2026).

The latter part of the year the focus shifted to our Pathways to Publishing suite of activities, including advice on preparing to pitch, an introduction to self-publishing and a new twist on a pitch day to traditional publishers. Alongside this Splinter gained momentum with the publication of issue 2 supplemented by an illuminating collection of voices by Deaf writers. In November, in a partnership with Our Mob (Adelaide Festival Centre), a panel of global First People's writers launched Issue 3 guest edited by Jannali Jones.

With the many changes in staffing across 2025 and a small dedicated group delivering the program (from 5.1 to 3.1 FTE) the organisation has also been reimagining and refining its strategic plan. The work has begun to address the changes over the last few years in the context in which we work, financial, cultural and societal; the shifts in membership and the fundraising landscape, the impact of the internet, Covid-19 and cost of living increases. With this comes a greater visibility and commitment to under-represented communities including those living regionally.

The need to increase and diversify our income continues to grow and the recognition that this must be done not in order to increase program activity but to meet, target and deepen our strategic delivery. We go into 2026, with a new understanding of the organisation's needs and a commitment to deliver a creatively and financially successful program in the next year.

We continue to be indebted to our funding supporters acknowledged elsewhere in this report. Writers SA extends deep thanks to all who supported, partnered and engaged with us in 2025. I would like to end this note by thanking our outgoing Chair Tanya Wilkins, who has overseen a complex and difficult period for the organisation and welcomed me to Writers SA with honesty and an open mind.

Claire Hicks
CEO

Our Objectives and Activities

WRITERS PATH

Writer's Path is the area of work dedicated to supporting professional development. Writers SA offers a range of services including manuscript assessments, craft and industry sessions and employment opportunities. This is the focus of our work with members. Along with exclusive information sessions, resources and meet-ups, we provide access to the National Network of State Writing Centres, to discounted workshops, prizes and more. Our youth membership is in partnership with Express Media who publish *Voiceworks*.

Membership steadied around the latter half of the year with an end of year figure of 550. Comprised of 324 full members, 186 concession and 6 writing groups. There are also 14 First Nations and 20 pay it forward members

MEMBER SERVICES

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.

In 2025 this area of work was led by a new role Assessments Co-ordinator & Programs Assistant, which Bernadette Eden took up in February 2025.

In 2025, we undertook 8 x pre-submission packages, 4 x first feedbacks (paid and program credits), 2 x mentorships, 11 x assessments and consults completing the First Draft and Next Draft program and 47 x manuscript assessments. We paid nearly \$16,000 to assessors who are authors and/or editors, supporting them as creatives and small business owners.

CONSULTATIONS

We offer complimentary advisory consultations for members who have writing, publishing and creative career queries. These meetings can be conducted in person, over the phone, or video conference, and are a special members-only resource. In 2025, there were approximately 40 consults providing support and advice to aspiring, emerging and advanced authors.

OPPORTUNITIES

Members participate in many of our other activities through exclusive access, advance notice and discounts. A number of opportunities are open only to members; in other cases, members are given priority booking. Writers SA has member prices for workshops and development events.

Members also tap into the benefits of the National Writers' Centre Network, and are encouraged to utilise reciprocal discounts where available.

Our Objectives and Activities

PUBLIC PROGRAM

Our public program puts the relationship between readers and writers into the spotlight – providing opportunities for writers to connect with audiences through contributions to annual festivals, South Australian local partnerships (including with libraries), and connections with reading groups, bookshops and book lovers. It also encourages community writing from teens up.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

We partnered with **Adelaide Writers' Week** to co-present two sessions in 2025:

Splinter Journal: Unravelling Reality Can a literary journal help us understand or even change our reality? Editor of new Tarantanya-based journal *Splinter*, Farrin Foster, and issue one writers Hossein Asgari, Karen Wyld and Anthony Nocera, discuss the evolving purpose of literary journals and how it dovetails with their work in *Splinter*.

Writing Home: Writers on Place Place is more than a setting. It is an evocation, a provocation and possibly a temptation. In both fiction and non-fiction, Jannali Jones, Jennifer Mills and Jessica White have all written about places, real, imagined and disputed. Join them for a conversation with chair Tamara Montina about placemaking with language.

Context Writers Festival held in partnership with the **City of Adelaide** was once again a success. Hosting International poet Isla Huia. This two day event held at City Library and Minorworks boasted panel discussions, workshops and networking opportunities.

Teen Writers Club (Adelaide) continues to grow each year. This term-long course encourages high school-aged teens to build a deeper understanding of their writing and to develop pathways for the future. It provides a safe, fun and engaging program for passionate young writers of all interests and abilities.

Think Tank sessions were held from February until September. This free session enabled writers to come together in an informal setting and discuss issues they may be having with their writing; to discuss concepts, test plotlines, workshop a synopsis, and brainstorm and get feedback in a fast-paced hour of creative construction, in partnership with City of Adelaide's City Library.

Writing Wednesdays, in partnership with the **Queensland Writers Centre**, are held in the **State Library of South Australia**, and promote quiet, focused writing time using the Pomodoro method.



Our Objectives and Activities

PUBLICATION

Producing *Splinter* journal along with one-off publications and publishing partnerships. Pathways to Publishing activities, advice and resources.



TEEN WRITERS CLUB ADELAIDE ANTHOLOGY - AFTERLIFE

Thanks to the support of Friends of the State Library, Writers SA published an anthology featuring 20 pieces from participants in the past two years of our Teen Writers Club. The theme for this collection was "Afterlife".

Teen Writers Club participants gained valuable experience in writing, editing and design work, providing an understanding of the workings of a real-life publishing house. Teens also had an invaluable opportunity to receive professional editorial guidance from Adam Cece, the current leader of the Teen Writers Club, and most importantly, a chance to see their work in print. The book launch held in the City Library in February 2026 provided a fitting conclusion to our time hosting the Teen Writers Club in that location.

PATHWAYS TO PUBLISHING

Pathways to Publishing - Pitch Day was held on November 1st at The Pullman Hotel with 45 attendees and 6 publishers. Participants had the opportunity to pitch their manuscript directly to publishing representatives, and gain valuable feedback on both their pitch and their project. Panel discussions provided insights and answered frequently asked questions about the publishing industry, removing barriers between writers and publishers. The day was a publishing as well as networking success with a Pitch Day Catch Up event requested by members and held in February 2026.

Pathways to Self Publishing was held in Blackwood at Tiwu Kumangka in October in partnership with Mostly Books. A panel of industry experts supported the event as well as workshop and inspirational speaker, Anna Hackett. Feedback was positive, and the event empowered attendees by demystifying the process of self-publishing.

A number of participants attended both events, gaining valuable insights and allowing them to make informed decisions on which path is right for them.

I felt thinking nothing would come of my pitches, yet still grateful for what I'd learned and the chance to hear directly from publishers and authors. I felt a bit of a 'literary spark' pitching to Emma Rafferty from Pan Macmillan. It was like she really got what I was trying to say. I'm always a bit shy pitching my work, but she drew more out of me and got to the heart of the story ... It's still hard to believe the book that once lived in my head will be out early next year!"

– Carla Caruso, who obtained a contract with Pan Macmillan for her manuscript *Kitteens* as a result of her participation in Pitch Day.

The Pathways to Publishing presentations offered a wealth of valuable self-publishing insights. The turnout was excellent, and I met a number of interesting authors, along with members of the Writers SA team, who were generous with their time and showed a genuine interest in my publishing journey.

–Neil McKenzie, who self-published *The Hornets' Nest* following his attendance at Pathways to Self Publishing.



SPLINTER JOURNAL

In 2025, *Splinter* established itself as an ongoing and important force in the SA and Australian literary sector.

The year included publication of the literary journal's second and third issues. This cemented *Splinter's* role in the community as a connector – of readers and writers, writers and editors, writing institutions, and writers and industry professionals. The foundation of this work is our continued collaboration with the three major South Australian universities – Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, and UniSA – and support from CreateSA.

Over the two issues launched in 2025, *Splinter* published 51 writers, mentored 18 emerging editors, and assessed submissions from more than 1,300 writers. *Splinter's* role in the wider literary community also continued to expand, with direct involvement in Adelaide Writers' Week, Melbourne Design Week's Art Book Fair, the Australian Short Story Festival, Writers Assemble Festival, and Our Words. Additionally, *Splinter* was delighted to facilitate opportunities for our editorial committee members to be involved in OzAsia's Weekend of Words through a live reading program run at the event.

Amplifying diverse writers' voices was a key focus for *Splinter* in 2025. Alongside the always-varied perspectives published in the journal, this included two special projects. The first was 'Attending' – a unique liftout published with issue two, which featured original work by five d/Deaf writers. These writers were mentored by Fi Murphy and Jessica White while developing their work for *Splinter*, creating both skills development and community-building opportunities.

The second project was the transformation of our third issue into a First Nations issue. With support and advice from *Splinter* advisory committee members Dominic Guerrera and Ali Cobby-Eckermann, *Splinter* appointed Gunai novelist, editor, and playwright Jannali Jones to lead the issue. In her capacity as guest editor, Jannali curated an outstanding collection of 26 original works by First Nations and Indigenous writers from around Australia and the world. The issue tells stories of joy and empowerment while also chronicling the absurdity of life in the colony.

Reader response to *Splinter* continues to be encouraging. Both 2025 issues were launched with well-attended public events held at the State Library. The First Nations issue launch was presented in collaboration with Adelaide Festival Centre's OUR WORDS, representing a warm and energetic coming together of literary communities.

Splinter moves into 2026 with solid foundations. With issues four and five slated to launch in May and October 2026 respectively, we are excited to continue the publication's growth trajectory.

PARTNERS



The State Library of South Australia is a key partner and our home base.

Adelaide City Library
Adelaide Writers' Week
Blackwood Library
Express Media
Friends of the State Library
Flinders University
Howling Owl
Matilda Bookshop
Mindshare
Pink Shorts Press
Pullman Hotels
Red Room Poetry
South Australian English Teachers Association
University of Adelaide
UniSA
Varuna

Literary Sector Development

Writers SA continued to develop a diverse and flourishing literary community through our work with targeted groups. Through our advocacy and artist capacity building projects, we provide skills-based and community-led programs to create connections, pathways to industry, interstate collaboration and introductions, and new literary works. These cut across our three program areas as demonstrated by the community writing offer in our public program.

ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK

In 2025 Writers SA worked with Adelaide Writers' Week to deliver two panels. *Splinter* journal: Unravelling Reality featuring Hossein Asgari, Ren Wyld and Anthony Nocera and Writing Home: Writers on Place with Jannali Jones, Jennifer Mills and Jessica White.

WRITING WEDNESDAY

A free, volunteer-led weekly session every Wednesday for members, in partnership with Queensland Writers Centre.

THINK TANK

In partnership with City of Adelaide's City Library, a co-writing session held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

TEEN WRITERS CLUB

The Teen Writers Club is a place for high school aged writers to make new connections, be inspired, and develop their writing.

PRIZES, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

Deep Creek Residency Fellowship, Varuna Fellowship, Campbelltown Short Story Competition, Onkaparinga Short Story Competition, George Town Literary Festival, Emerging Writers Festival, Mindshare prize, SAETA Poetry prize.

NATIONAL WRITERS' CENTRE NETWORK

Writers SA is part of the National Writers' Centre Network, Australia's largest network of writers. The network supports and connects writers in all the States and Territories of Australia. Together, we represent more than 10,000 members and a much broader constituency of early career, emerging and established authors – across all genres, all styles and all parts of Australia.

SPLINTER JOURNAL

Splinter is a key part of the work Writers SA does around literary sector development.



Financial Statements

Annual Financial Report

SA Writers' Centre Inc

ABN 40 783 458 265

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Other important information



How you can help

BECOME A FRIEND OF WRITERS SA

As we concluded our landmark 40th anniversary in November 2025, we proudly launched the 'Friend of Writers SA' initiative, formalising a dedicated network of supporters committed to fostering South Australia's literary culture. Community is vital to our writing sector: writers, publishers of all types, booksellers, librarians, teachers and readers can and do build it together.

For the 2026 fiscal year, we have set a campaign target of \$40,000. We invite our supporters to join this initiative with a suggested baseline contribution of \$40.00, directly aiding our efforts to scale our reach and impact across the state. As a Friend of Writers SA you will be part of a community who are invited to gather and share in person and online across the year. You will be ensuring that we can deliver our program including public events, professional development opportunities and pathways to publishing. You will receive our regular e-news with information on SA activities, opportunities and sector updates.

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 visit writerssa.org.au/donations to arrange a donation and receive a tax deductible receipt. The generosity of our community helps to fund the future of our organisation, ensuring we can continue to provide a resource for writers of all ages and experience levels in SA and beyond. Your contributions go towards:

- Skill and creative development for writers, attracting the best talent across SA and Australia to deliver a range of workshops, author talks, and events for writers at all stages and across different genres
- Employment opportunities for professional writers, helping writers live and work in SA
- Youth and student writing programs to nurture the next generation of storytellers
- Diverse literary sector initiatives to help us make our state an accessible and equitable place of culture
- Social and networking gatherings for our members to gather together as writers.

Your donation helps us to achieve this and more, supporting SA writers and writing today and into the future. We're grateful for every donation. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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 and free workshops, and receive a discount on all our services. Members can also access professional opportunities, industry events, marketing and promotional support, and importantly, ensure the ongoing operation of Writers SA. Anyone can join Writers SA and it is a great 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.

Acknowledgements

Writers SA extends deep thanks to all who engaged with us in 2025. 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, and to project partners and venues who house and present these events, we say thank you.



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instagram.com/writerssa



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Monday-Thursday
10am-4pm