

NSW Writers' Centre Inc.

2018 Annual Report to Members

Annual General Meeting 17 June 2019

Chair's Report

Introduction

Writing NSW is the state's premier organisation for writers, providing services and support to thousands of writers each year.

There were many achievements in 2018 as Jane McCredie, our CEO, outlines in her report. This year was an important year of renewal as we completed the rebrand from NSW Writers' Centre to Writing NSW, along with a complete redesign of our website and backend systems to ensure the organisation can continue to grow and adapt for future opportunities.

Writing NSW does a huge amount with a small and dedicated team. Special thanks to Jane McCredie, Business & Property Manager Jeanne Kinninmont, and Program Manager Julia Tsalis, but all our staff, interns, caretakers and volunteers work extremely hard to make it all happen.

Board update

Board members give their time voluntarily and I would like to thank all of the board members who served during 2018: Jane Pochon, Alison Green, Bruce McCabe, Jace Armstrong, Kate Faherty, Loretta Re, Roanna Gonsalves and Ashlea Wallington.

There were a number of resignations over the course of the year. Thanks to Eleanor Limprecht, Bruce McCabe, Sushma Segal and Elissa Buttsworth for their contributions.

We had four new Board members join the team over the course of 2018. Welcome to Loretta Re, Roanna Gonsalves, Sarah Morton and Ashlea Wallington.

Finance

We continue to build on the strong financial outcomes of the previous three years, which enables us to invest in additional services. The attached audited accounts and Treasurer's report give the details.

Strategy

Our four key strategic goals for the 2019-2021 triennium are:

- Support NSW writers and help them build sustainable careers in the constantly changing writing and publishing environment
- Expand our support for writers, both geographically and demographically, directly and through collaboration
- Increase awareness of Writing NSW as the premier writing organisation in the state
- Ensure a sound financial and organisational base for our operations

In conclusion

The year has seen some great successes in terms of programming and providing support to writers. We have achieved strong financial performance in a challenging environment. We have exciting plans for the future, but the challenges in improving the profile of the organisation, expanding our reach and becoming more digital, and finding more diverse sources of income to execute those plans, are real and will continue to be a focus in 2019.

Joel Naoum Chair

April 2019



CEO's Annual Report 2018

<u>Introduction</u>

In 2018, the NSW Writers' Centre changed its name to Writing NSW to better reflect its commitment to supporting writers from all backgrounds, across all genres and at all stages of their careers. Across the year, we helped thousands of writers, helping them to develop their skills and knowledge in a constantly changing writing and publishing environment.

To celebrate our new name, we held a launch event, at Lazy Bones in Marrickville, featuring some of the talented writers awarded Writing NSW grants over the previous two years, including Shankari Chandran, Jarrah Dundler, Alana Hicks, Stephen Pham, Drew Rooke and Kerri Shying.

We also ran an online competition to name the best NSW towns to set various kinds of stories in. This provoked an enthusiastic response, with large numbers of entries and much coverage by local media in the winning towns: Broken Hill (whodunnit), Bundeena (fairytale), Coonabarabran (extraterrestrial encounter), Eden (passionate love story), Hay (musical) and Mt Victoria (ghost story).

In tandem with our change of name, we launched a new more user-friendly website with expanded features during the year, as well as upgrading all our digital systems. We continue to expand our digital services to support writers who are unable to come to our headquarters in Lilyfield. During the year, we increased the number and range of our online courses, offering our first instructional course alongside the established feedback programs launched in 2016. We also launched a new podcast channel during the year, with recordings of events and other content.

Writing NSW has always had a strong commitment to supporting Indigenous writers and writing and a major highlight of the year was the launch of the new Boundless Indigenous Mentorship in partnership with Melbourne's Text Publishing and with the support of the First Nations Australia Writers' Network. The inaugural prize was judged by award-winning Wiradjuri writer Tara June Winch in consultation with representatives of Writing NSW and Text. The prize was awarded to emerging Barkindji writer Allanah Hunt, who is now being mentored by Tara.

Our successful Writing NSW grants program ran for the third time in 2018, thanks to devolved funding from Create NSW. Under the program, we gave grants to four early-career writers, one emerging writing organisation, 10 regional writers (access grants for professional development) and to a writer and scientist working on a joint project.

Other highlights in 2018 included two genre-based festivals (Kids & YA Literature and the Quantum Words Festival of writing about science), the highest quality and most diverse



professional development program for writers in NSW, the Honouring Oodgeroo Noonuccal event staged at the State Library of NSW, our industry symposium, The Forest for the Trees, presented in conjunction with the Sydney Writers' Festival, staging our successful Inside Publishing event at the Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival, and presenting industry information at the FNAWN national workshop in Canberra.

A major priority for the organisation is to help writers build sustainable careers, to meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities presented by the rapidly changing writing and publishing environment. In 2018, we addressed this need through a wide range of professional development and networking events. We also strengthened our role as an information hub for writers and writing organisations around the state, responding to thousands of individual inquiries and offering a suite of print and online resources, including up-to-date, practical and independent information about writing and publishing. Our free weekly e-newsletter provided listings of opportunities for writers and practical information to nearly 10,000 subscribers.

One of the organisation's most important roles is as an employer of writers, helping established and emerging writers to sustain their careers by offering paid employment as speakers at events, tutors in courses and seminars, judges of competitions and contributors to our literary magazine, *Newswrite*. In 2018, we offered nearly 300 paid employment opportunities for writers from around NSW and Australia, to a total value of around \$170,000.

The 2018 year saw the organisation further consolidate its financial and governance performance. The financial surplus recorded in 2018 has allowed us to build modest financial reserves that will help to ensure we can continue doing our important work on behalf of writers well into the future, particularly in a context of declining federal funding.

Many people and organisations make it possible for us to do everything we do to support writers and writing in NSW.

The vibrant 2018 program was made possible by the hard work of a talented and dedicated team, including Program Manager Julia Tsalis, Business & Property Manager Jeanne Kinninmont, Membership & Development Officer Sherry Landow, Program Officers Ren Arcamone, Dan Hogan and Ashley Kalagian Blunt, Administration Officer Cassie Watson, and Project & Communications Officer Aurora Scott who we were sorry to farewell at the end of the year. Our wonderful team of caretakers is made up of Anthony Bell, David Edmonds and John Morgan.

As part of our commitment to supporting and developing emerging arts workers, we offer a program of regular six-month internships. We were fortunate to have Catherine Bouris, Myra Opdyke, Lucie Towers, Alexander Wells and Annie Zhang as our interns in 2018 and we thank them for their efforts on behalf of the organisation.



We are also grateful to our volunteer Board for the time and expertise they give to the organisation, particularly our Chair, Joel Naoum.

We thank the many generous people who make donations or volunteer their time to help with our programs and the many publishers and other organisations that support our programs through partnerships and donations. Thank you to Bibliotheque Wines, CSIRO, Nature Research and the University of NSW for generous sponsorship during the year. We are grateful to Five Star PR and the inestimable Nicole Lenoir-Jourdan for pro bono publicity support, and to lawyers Clyde & Co for pro bono legal services.

We are able to provide our comprehensive services to writers thanks to a number of funding bodies, to whom we are immensely grateful. For their support in 2018, we thank Create NSW, the Australia Council, Inner West Council and the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

Writing NSW grants

The grant process and ongoing contact has helped me move from being a regional writer to being a more confident NSW writer.

- Response to 2018 Writing NSW survey

Our program of grants for writers and writing organisations ran for the third time in 2018, thanks to devolved funding from Create NSW. A total of 16 grants were awarded, including four early career writer grants, one emerging writing organisation grant, a grant for a writer and scientist working on a joint project and 10 grants to assist regional NSW writers in accessing professional development.

The four early career writers grants were awarded to: Frances Gia Phung An of Lakemba for her novel Pareidolia, Alisa Bryce of Urunga for her non-fiction book DIRT, Emily Crocker of Miranda for an untitled spoken word performance, and Viday Madabushi of Dee Why for her novel *The Unspoken*.

The grant for an emerging writing organisation went to the Live Words performance writing collective in Bathurst for a project to enhance the performance culture and theatre community of Central Western NSW.

The writer and scientist grant was awarded to playwright Nick Atkins and molecular biologist Mark Temple for their performance-based work, Helix.

The 10 regional access grants were awarded to writers from Albury, Ballina, Bathurst, Coonabarabran, Goonengerry, Gunnedah, Horseshoe Bend, the Mid-North Coast, Port Macquarie and Walcha. Regional writers used the grants to attend professional



development offered by the New England Writers' Centre, the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators and Writing NSW.

Judges for the writer and writing organisation grants were Cathy Craigie, David Henley and Jane McCredie. The writer and technologist grant was judged by Professor Rob Brooks of UNSW, Sherry Landow and Jane McCredie.

Professional development

The courses that I have done with Writing NSW helped keep me motivated to keep writing, to aim for my dreams and stay focused.

- Response to 2018 Writing NSW survey

Writing NSW is the biggest provider of training and development for writers in NSW, offering the state's most diverse range of courses, seminars, master classes, manuscript assessments and mentorships. Many writers have achieved first publication of their work as a direct result of a Writing NSW course or mentorship.

The program is regularly renewed with new courses and tutors to ensure it continues to meet the needs of writers in the constantly changing industry environment.

Courses in 2018 covered a wide range of genres: children's literature, comedy, creative non-fiction, crime, educational, essays, fiction, historical fiction, history, journalism, memoir, picture books, playwriting, podcasting, poetry, romance, science writing, short stories, speculative fiction and Young Adult literature. There were also courses covering professional skills, such as book publicity, building an online profile, the business of being a writer, digital marketing, editing, e-publishing, interviewing, journalling, performance skills, pitching your work, research for writers, self-publishing, writing a synopsis, and writing tools and techniques.

In 2018, we expanded our offering of online courses, running six courses including feedback courses focused on poetry, creative non-fiction, short stories and children's books, led by tutors Felicity Castagna, Anwen Crawford, Aleesah Darlison, Tegan Bennett Daylight, Martin Langford and Mark O'Flynn. We will be further expanding our offering of online courses in 2019.

Tutors across the 2018 course program included: Steven Amsterdam, Karen Andrews, Davina Bell, Hilary Bell, Judith Beveridge, Emily Bitto, Jesse Blackadder, Anna Campbell, Felicity Castagna, George Catsi, Laurel Cohn, Claire Corbett, Anwen Crawford, Kate Cuthbert, Timothy Daly, Mark Dapin, Aleesah Darlison, Tegan Bennett Daylight, Tom Doig, Brook Emery, Kate Forsyth, Linda Funnell, Amanda Hampson, Pamela Hewitt, Cate Kennedy, Martin Langford, Patrick Lenton, Eleanor Limprecht, Belinda Lopez, Anthony Macris, Emily Maguire, Patti Miller, Kate Montague, Belinda Murrell, Joel Naoum, Bianca Nogrady, Mark



O'Flynn, Helen O'Neill, Ryan O'Neill, CS Pacat, Louise Park, Gillian Polack, Alice Pung, Luke Ryan, Michael Sala, Lisa Shanahan, Pip Smith, Cat Sparks, Phil Spencer, Tony Spencer-Smith, Tiffany Tsao, Sue Woolfe and Fiona Wright.

The year's courses were extremely well received by the nearly 1000 participating writers, who gave average ratings of 9.2/10 for tutors and 8.8/10 for course content.

Also in 2018, we continued our successful Open House program, which sees a publishing house come to our venue for the day to talk about the publishing process and provide individual feedback on submissions from participating writers. We ran the program twice in 2018, once each with HarperCollins and Penguin Random House.

As part of the professional development program, we also offer paid mentorships and manuscript assessments, employing established writers and editors to give feedback on writers' work in progress. Advice covers technical writing issues and strategies for achieving publication. Sessions can be conducted face-to-face, or electronically for regional writers and others who are unable to come to our venue.

Festivals and other events

Keep doing the wonderful workshops, talks, festivals, etc., that you do. - Response to 2018 Writing NSW survey

The organisation is renowned for its lively events, which attracted more than 1000 people in 2018 and received enthusiastic feedback.

The year's events included two of our flagship genre-based festivals for writers, featuring a diverse mix of established and emerging writers, as well as publishers and other industry professionals to help foster connections and opportunities for the participating writers. The 2018 festivals were Kids & YA Literature and the Quantum Words Festival of writing about science. Both festivals were rated good or excellent by more than 95% of participants.

The sold-out Kids & YA Literature Festival was directed by Belinda Murrell and featured more than 40 writers, publishers and illustrators. The wide-ranging program covered topics including humour, fantastical worlds, gender and diversity, and strategies for getting published. Programmed writers included Deborah Abela, James Bradley, Tamar Chnorhokian, Graham Davidson, Sarah Davis, Jacqueline de Rose-Ahern, Anne Helen Donnelly, Kate Forsyth, Eleni Hale, Tim Harris, Jacqueline Harvey, Megan Jacobson, Will Kostakis, Dub Leffler, Jaclyn Moriarty, Garth Nix, Louise Park, Aura Parker, Oliver Phommavanh, Yvette Poshoglian, Katrina Roe, Paul Russell, Kirli Saunders, Laura Sieveking, Kate Simpson, RA Spratt and AL Tait. Speakers also included industry figures with representatives from Hachette, Harbour Publishing, HarperCollins, Omnibus Books, Pan Macmillan and Penguin Random House.



The Quantum Words Festival in November was directed by Jane McCredie. Sessions covered the nature of consciousness, scientific hubris, writing mental illness, and writing the universe, among other topics. Programmed speakers included writers Evelyn Araluen, James Best, James Bradley, Ellen Broad, Danielle Clode, Kate Cole-Adams, Annaliese Constable, Craig Cormick, PS Cottier, Cathy Craigie, Tricia Dearborn, Benjamin Dodds, Hannah Donnelly, Delia Falconer, Ian Gibbins, Tom Griffiths, Lesley Hughes, Emma Johnston, Natasha Mitchell, Margaret Morgan, Bianca Nogrady, TI O, Benison O'Reilly, Simon Petrie, Nicky Phillips, John Pickrell, Stephen Pincock, Peter Polites, Nicola Redhouse, Lisa Walker, Fred Watson and Jonathan Webb, as well as industry representatives from the ABC, *Australian Geographic*, Brio Books, CSIRO, Nature Research, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and various universities. We were grateful to the major sponsor of the festival, UNSW Science, and to our supporting partners Nature Research and CSIRO.

In conjunction with the festival, and in partnership with Australian Poetry, we ran the Quantum Words Science Poetry Competition. The competition was judged by Tricia Dearborn, Benjamin Dodds and Jane McCredie and was won by Helen Thurloe, with the second prize going to Lorne Johnson and highly commended to Eileen Chong. The other shortlisted poets were Jenny Blackford and Jack Oats.

We were delighted to have Better Read than Dead as the bookseller for both 2018 festivals.

Writing NSW continued its partnership with the Sydney Writers Festival in 2018, again staging its successful day-long industry symposium on the state of writing and publishing, The Forest for the Trees, at the State Library of NSW. Speakers included leading writers, Australian and international publishers, literary agents, journal editors and booksellers, with the keynote address given by Julie Koh. Other speakers included Walter Mason, Annabel Smith and Charlotte Wood. Industry speakers included literary agent Alex Adsett, academic Per Henningsgaard, US publisher Kirsty Melville (courtesy of the Australia Council's Visiting International Publisher program) and representatives of the Australia Council, Australian Publishers Association, Australian Society of Authors, Avid Reader Bookshop, *Books + Publishing*, Copyright Agency and Nielsen Bookscan.

We took our successful Inside Publishing event to Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival in 2018 with speakers including literary agent Jo Butler, publishing consultant Robyn Sheahan-Bright and representatives from Pantera Press and Penguin Random House. CEO Jane McCredie and Project & Communications Officer Aurora Scott also participated in the FNAWN national workshop in Canberra. In July, we were delighted to host a very productive meeting of regional NSW literary organisations, including Booranga Writers' Centre, Hunter Writers' Centre, Mudgee Readers' Festival, Newcastle Writers Festival, New England Writers' Centre, Outback Writers' Centre, South Coast Writers' Centre and Wollongong Writers Festival.



Another major event of the year was the fifth presentation of our annual Honouring Australian Writers program, designed to bring an important writer from the past to a new generation of readers. The 2018 event, staged at the State Library of NSW, featured Oodgeroo Noonuccal, the first Aboriginal poet to be published in Australia. The fascinating and inspiring day was co-curated with Indigenous poet and academic Peter Minter and included contributions from Evelyn Araluen, Brenda Saunders and filmmaker Frank Heimans, who made the documentary about Noonuccal, Shadow Sister. Excerpts from the documentary were shown on the day. The Honouring series is supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund.

Other events in 2018 included the successful Talking Writing evening series, which is free to members and attracts a nominal payment for non-members. Topics in 2018 included finding comedy in difficult areas, with speakers George Catsi, Tamar Chnorhokian, Annaliese Constable and Kevin Duo Jin and an event on Pasifika-Australian writers curated by Winnie Dunn and staged at ICE in Parramatta with speakers Brian Fuata, Didi de Graaf, Amrita Hepi and Emele Ugavule.

Our First Friday events continued to offer a free monthly industry-focused event to members, featuring guests from across the literature sector. In 2018, speakers included Allen & Unwin publisher Annette Barlow, book designer Astred Hicks, Spineless Wonders founder Bronwyn Mehan, HarperCollins publisher Catherine Milne, Hachette head of sales Daniel Pilkington, Hachette production manager Isabel Stass and Penguin Random House rights manager Nerrilee Weir.

Membership and community

I feel part of a community which helps overcome the sometimes isolating experience of being a writer. I really love having Writing NSW in my life – it really is a lifeline.. - Response to 2018 Writing NSW survey

Members and others highly value the services Writing NSW provides, as demonstrated by the results of our 2018 survey: 82% of members said their involvement with the organisation had helped their writing and 80% rated our support of writing in the state at 7/10 or higher. An impressive 22% of members said their involvement with the organisation had helped them achieve publication or performance of their work, with many citing our courses, manuscript assessments or mentorships as the key to getting their work published for the first time.

Just over 20% of respondents come from regional NSW, with most of the rest based in Sydney, and a small number from interstate and overseas. The survey revealed that 17% of respondents identified as coming from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) background, 8% as having a disability and 1.4% as Indigenous.



Most respondents are emerging or developing writers, who value the support Writing NSW can offer at this early stage of their careers. Just over 80% see writing as a professional pursuit and many work in more than one genre, with the biggest group being fiction writers (61%), followed by children's and young adult literature (29%), non-fiction (26%), autobiography and memoir (23%), poetry (22%), speculative fiction (16%), scriptwriting (14%) and journalism (13%). Other genres include business writing, comics, copywriting, podcasts and songwriting.

Members are enthusiastic participants in Writing NSW activities: 79% have attended a course, 29% a festival, 24% a writing group, and 40% have turned to the organisation for advice or information.

Services provided to members during the year included mentorships, manuscript assessments, work spaces for individual writers, writing groups, a free subscription to *Newswrite*, discounted or free access to a range of events including Talking Writing and First Friday, and general information and advice about writing and publishing.

In 2018, our member-only Writing NSW/Varuna Fellowships were awarded to Tanya Vavilova for her collection of short stories, *Excess Baggage*, and to Karina Young (under-30 category) for her novel, *The River Runs Deeper*. Runners-up from a very strong field were Chloe Higgins and Sarah Klenbort. Judges were writer Roanna Gonsalves, Allen & Unwin publisher Jane Palfreyman and Writing NSW CEO Jane McCredie.

We hosted more than 30 member-run writing groups during the year, a highly valued source of support and feedback for emerging and established writers. Almost 300 writers participated during 2018, with groups covering poetry, fiction, writing for children and many other genres. In 2018, we staged an event to celebrate the writing groups, giving 10 groups the opportunity to present their group to potential members. Children's author and radio presenter Katrina Roe gave an inspiring speech about how membership of a group had helped her career. The writing groups program is supported by Inner West Council.

Information hub

Writing NSW helps keep me in the loop as a regional writer with what is being released, what competitions are coming up, and makes me feel in touch with a wider writing community than my own small one.

- Response to 2018 Writing NSW survey

A key role of Writing NSW is to act as an information hub for writers, providing advice, connections and access to resources. Staff are constantly responding to email, phone and face-to-face enquiries from writers, adding up to thousands of individual responses over the



year. Our new website is regularly updated with a lively mix of resource sheets, FAQs and blogs on all aspects of writing.

In 2018, our free weekly e-newsletter, Newsbite, provided information about writing and opportunities for writers to nearly 10,000 subscribers. We also have a strong and growing presence in social media. Our Facebook following topped 4000 in 2018, while Twitter came to nearly 16,000.

The Writing NSW magazine, Newswrite, is edited by novelist Kirsten Krauth and offers a lively mix of articles on contemporary writing and the issues confronting writers. The magazine has a circulation of 3000 that includes members, funding bodies, writing organisations, publishers and industry contacts. In 2018, the magazine had more than 20 contributors, featuring an exciting collection of established and emerging writers including Lindy Alexander, Idan Ben-Barak, Philip Bunting, Mel Campbell, Clint Caward, Catherine Cole, Claire Coleman, Samuel Elliott, Cate Kennedy, Julie Koh, Alex Lee, Sarah Luke, Margaret Morgan, Belinda Murrell, Ruth Quibell, Mirandi Riwoe, Sam Twyford-Moore, Emma Viskic, Jessica White, Alison Whittaker and Damon Young.

Partnerships and outreach

In 2018, Writing NSW contributed to the broader literary sector through regular advocacy on behalf of writers and writing and through building networks and supporting and working with other literary organisations.

We worked closely with a wide range of writing and arts organisations during the year and were an active member of the National Writers' Centre Network, which brings together state and territory writers' centres from around the country for collaborative projects, advocacy and information sharing. In 2018, we also further strengthened our relationships with industry, working closely with publishers, agents, booksellers and other industry representatives. A highlight of the year was increased collaborations across the sector, with new networks of Sydney and NSW literature organisations holding meetings hosted by Writing NSW.

In 2018, our programs were particularly enriched by partnerships with the ABC, Allen & Unwin, Australian Geographic, Australian Poetry, Australian Publishers Association, Australian Society of Authors, Bankstown Arts Centre, Bankstown Poetry Slam, Bellingen Readers & Writers Festival, Better Read than Dead, Books + Publishing, Booranga Writers' Centre, Brio Books, CSIRO, First Nations Australia Writers' Network, Giramondo, Hachette, Harbour Publishing, HarperCollins, Hunter Writers' Centre, Information and Cultural Exchange Parramatta, Lazy Bones, Mudgee Readers' Festival, National Writers' Centre Network, National Young Writers' Festival, Nature Research, New England Writers' Centre, Nielsen Bookscan, Omnibus Books, Outback Writers' Centre, Pan Macmillan, Pantera Press, Penguin Random House, Small Press Network, South Coast Writers' Centre, Southerly, State

ABN 55 552 981 839



Library of NSW, Stella Prize, Sweatshop, *Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney Review of Books*, Sydney Writers' Festival, Text Publishing, University of NSW, Varuna, WestWords, Whitlam Institute, Wollongong Writers Festival, and Word Travels.

To support young writers in Western Sydney, we supported WestWords to take on our successful HSC English Extension 2 workshop, and we again sponsored the Year 11/12 prize in the Whitlam Institute's *What Matters?* writing competition for school students, won by Alison Hwang of Fort Street High School.

As advocates for writers and the writing sector, we continued to fight for a healthier writing sector, preparing submissions to all levels of government on funding and policy matters and the interests of writers.

The future

In 2019, Writing NSW will continue its proud tradition of serving the writers of New South Wales. We will seek new opportunities to expand our face-to-face and digital programs and to ensure we are supporting the wonderful and creative diversity of writing in NSW.

Jane McCredie CEO

15 April 2019

Treasurer's Report

Summary of 2018 results and financial position

The NSW Writers' Centre (trading as Writing NSW) achieved a surplus of \$37,480 (2017: \$23,409) which is a pleasing result as during 2018 it increased investment in areas that expand the Centre's reach geographically and demographically, a key strategic imperative. Highlights for 2018 include the name change to Writing NSW and the implementation of the digital upgrade, including a new website. The organisation continues to achieve revenue growth from its course program and other areas as well as maintaining strong control of expenses.

The retained earnings of \$104,203 as at 31 December 2018 positions the Centre strongly towards meeting its operational and strategic needs. This sound financial position enables investment in strategic priorities in support of its mission of meeting the needs of NSW writers and contribution to building a vibrant and sustainable writing sector in the state.

The Centre has continued to maintain its financial governance, risk management and controls throughout 2018.

Eliza Twaddell

Treasurer

15 April 2019

NSW WRITERS' CENTRE INC (TRADING AS WRITING NSW) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018



LBW & Partners

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NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)
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Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Committee Members of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as auditor of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) for the year ended 31 December 2018, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Rupaninga Dharmasiri Partner

LBW & Partners Chartered Accountants Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway CHATSWOOD NSW 2067



NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income For the year ended 31 December 2018

Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue 4	786,273	890,035
Expenses Administration expenses Employee benefits expense Depreciation and amortisation expense Program and events expenses Property expenses Publication and information resource expenses	(88,907) (436,763) (1,035) (157,259) (19,722) (45,107)	(120,983) (433,395) (3,180) (221,182) (24,243) (63,642)
Surplus before income tax expense Income tax expense	37,480	23,410
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	37,480	23,410
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax		<u>=</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	37,480	23,410

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) Statement of financial position As at 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Assets			
Current assets Cash and cash equivalents Trade and other receivables Inventories Term deposits Prepayments Total current assets	6 7	829,736 18,574 829 - 5,972 855,111	406,469 5,798 767 100,519 6,969 520,522
Non-current assets Property, plant and equipment Total non-current assets	8 _	202 202	1,237 1,237
Total assets	_	855,313	521,759
Liabilities			
Current liabilities Trade and other payables Employee benefits Other Total current liabilities	9 10 11	105,982 96,231 533,709 735,922	110,030 78,862 257,031 445,923
Non-current liabilities Employee benefits Total non-current liabilities	12 _	15,188 15,188	9,113 9,113
Total liabilities	_	751,110	455,036
Net assets	=	104,203	66,723
Equity Retained surpluses	-	104,203	66,723
Total equity		104,203	66,723

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) Statement of changes in equity For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Retained surpluses	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2017	43,313	43,313
Surplus after income tax expense for the year Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	23,410	23,410
Total comprehensive income for the year	23,410	23,410
Balance at 31 December 2017	66,723	66,723
	Retained surpluses \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2018	surpluses	
Balance at 1 January 2018 Surplus after income tax expense for the year Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	surpluses \$	\$
Surplus after income tax expense for the year	surpluses \$ 66,723	\$ 66,723

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) Statement of cash flows For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash flows from operating activities Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST) Receipts from grants and other funding (inclusive of GST) Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		477,732 639,966 (802,479)	533,621 336,762 (806,787)
Interest received		315,219 7,529	63,596 7,704
Net cash from operating activities		322,748	71,300
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net cash from investing activities			
Cash flows from financing activities Change in term deposits		100,519	11,981
Net cash from financing activities		100,519	11,981
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		423,267 406,469	83,281 323,188
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6	829,736	406,469

Note 1. General information

The financial statements cover NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) (the association) as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the association's functional and presentation currency.

The association is a not-for-profit association incorporated in New South Wales under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The association is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as a charity.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 15 April 2019.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), as appropriate for not-for profit oriented entities, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and New South Wales legislation the Associations Incorporation Act 2009.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 3.

Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial statements presentation adopted for the current year.

Revenue recognition

The association recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the association and the revenue can be reliably measured.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point in time when the customer obtains control of the goods, which is generally at the time of delivery.

Rendering of services

Revenue from a contract to provide services is recognised over time as the services are rendered based on either a fixed price or an hourly rate.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the association obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the association and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the association incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Centre hire and rental income

Income from subletting and short term hiring of the business premises is recognised in the month to which the payment relates. Deposits and payments received in advance are recorded as deferred revenue until the month in which the service is provided.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Membership fees

Revenue from membership fees is recognised on a straight line basis over the period of the membership

Programs and courses fees

Booking to attend courses and programs are brought to account on payment of the relevant fees and initially treated as deferred income. Course and program fees are brought to account as revenue in the month in which they are held.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Income tax

As the association is a charity in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Note 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any allowance for expected credit losses. Trade receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the association prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Leases

Lease payments, for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, and charges as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Non-accumulating sick leave is expensed to profit or loss when incurred.

Other long-term employee benefits

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Defined contribution superannuation expense

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Goods and Services Tax ('GST') and other similar taxes

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred 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 other receivables or other payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of 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 from, or payable to, the tax authority.

Note 3. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management and committee to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management and committee continually evaluate their judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management and committee bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management and committee believe 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 a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Note 3. Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions (continued)

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 2, 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 attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Provision for estimated electricity charge

The amount of outstanding electricity charges due to invoices not being issued by the supplying authority has been estimated by the committee members. Refer to Note 14: Contingent liabilities

Note 4. Revenue

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Advertising Sponsorships Centre hire Donation income Festivals and events fees Interest received Mentorship program fees Membership fees Operating grants - Create NSW Operating grants - Create NSW Devolved Funding Operating grants - other Course and program fees Rental income Other revenue	7,690 7,000 68,347 - 12,580 7,529 5,941 109,319 175,000 3,000 115,677 228,072 43,353 2,765	7,247 4,850 73,081 6,600 15,540 7,704 13,489 111,474 175,000 30,000 156,750 249,395 37,926 979
	786,273	890,035

Note 5. Expenses

Surplus before income tax includes the following specific expenses:

	2018	2017
Lease rental expense Auditor's remuneration Superannuation contribution	11,338 4,250 33,926	11,338 4,250 33,039
Note 6. Current assets - cash and cash equivalents		
	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash on hand Cash at bank Cash on deposit	200 482,833 346,703	214 266,431 139,824
	829,736	406,469

Note 7. Current assets - trade and other receivables

Trade receivables Less: Provision for doubtful debts 23,574 (5,000) 10,000 (5,000) Note 8. Non-current assets - property, plant and equipment 2018 (2018			2018 \$	2017 \$
Rote 8. Non-current assets - property, plant and equipment 2018 \$ 2017 \$ \$ Furniture and equipment - at cost Less: Accumulated depreciation 17,749 (17,749) (17,74			23,574 (5,000)	
Purniture and equipment - at cost Less: Accumulated depreciation 17,749		:	18,574	5,798
Pumiture and equipment - at cost Less: Accumulated depreciation 17,749	Note 8. Non-current assets - property, plant and equipment			
Community Comm				
Cass Accumulated depreciation Cass Accumulated Cass Accumulated depreciation Cass Accumulated				(17,612)
Reconciliations Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below: Furniture and equipment \$\\$\$ Office equipment \$\\$\$ Total \$\\$\$ Balance at 1 January 2018 Depreciation expense 137 1,100 (898) (1,035) 1,237 (898) (1,035) Balance at 31 December 2018 - 202 202 202 Note 9. Current liabilities - trade and other payables Trade payables 4,800 10,150 (10,150) 10,150 (10,150) Sundry payables and accrued expenses 70,730 91,668 (2,598) 2,861 (2,598) Superannuation payable 2,861 (2,598) (2			(25,380)	(24,482)
Reconciliations of the written down values at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below. Furniture and equipment equipment \$			202	1,237
Balance at 1 January 2018 Depreciation expense 137 (137) 1,100 (898) 1,237 (1,035) Balance at 31 December 2018 - 202 202 Note 9. Current liabilities - trade and other payables		rrent financial yea	ar are set out belo	ow:
Depreciation expense (137) (898) (1,035) Balance at 31 December 2018 - 202 202 Note 9. Current liabilities - trade and other payables 2018 2017 \$ \$ Sundry payables and accrued expenses 70,730 91,668 Superannuation payable 2,861 2,598 BAS payable 27,591 5,614 Note 10. Current liabilities - employee benefits Annual leave Personal leave 65,508 50,757 \$ Personal leave 30,723 28,105		equipment	equipment	
Note 9. Current liabilities - trade and other payables 2018 2017 \$ \$ Trade payables 4,800 10,150 Sundry payables and accrued expenses 70,730 91,668 Superannuation payable 2,861 2,598 BAS payable 27,591 5,614 Note 10. Current liabilities - employee benefits Annual leave 65,508 50,757 Personal leave 65,508 50,757 2018 2017 2018 30,723 28,105				
Trade payables 4,800 10,150 Sundry payables and accrued expenses 70,730 91,668 Superannuation payable 2,861 2,598 BAS payable 27,591 5,614 Note 10. Current liabilities - employee benefits Annual leave 65,508 50,757 Personal leave 30,723 28,105	Balance at 31 December 2018		202	202
Trade payables 4,800 10,150 Sundry payables and accrued expenses 70,730 91,668 Superannuation payable 2,861 2,598 BAS payable 27,591 5,614 Note 10. Current liabilities - employee benefits 2018 2017 \$ \$ Annual leave 65,508 50,757 Personal leave 30,723 28,105	Note 9. Current liabilities - trade and other payables			
Sundry payables and accrued expenses 70,730 91,668 Superannuation payable 2,861 2,598 BAS payable 27,591 5,614 Note 10. Current liabilities - employee benefits 2018 2017 \$ \$ Annual leave 65,508 50,757 Personal leave 30,723 28,105				
Note 10. Current liabilities - employee benefits 2018 2017 \$ Annual leave Personal leave 30,723 28,105	Sundry payables and accrued expenses Superannuation payable		70,730 2,861	91,668 2,598
2018 2017 \$ \$ Annual leave Personal leave 65,508 50,757 30,723 28,105		:	105,982	110,030
Annual leave 65,508 50,757 Personal leave 30,723 28,105	Note 10. Current liabilities - employee benefits			
Personal leave				
<u>96,231</u> <u>78,862</u>				
		:	96,231	78,862

Note 11. Current liabilities - other

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Gift vouchers	1,200	1,335
Grants and funding received in advance	409,500	121,311
Deposits and bonds received	8,980	7,480
Other income received in advance	104,890	118,330
DGR Donations	9,139	8,575
	533,709	257,031
Note 12. Non-current liabilities - employee benefits		
	2018 \$	2017 \$
Long service leave	15,188	9,113
Note 13. Key management personnel disclosures		a
Compensation The aggregate compensation made to key management personnel of the association is set out	ıt below:	
	2018 \$	2017 \$

Note 14. Contingent liabilities

Aggregate compensation

The association has not received an electricity or gas account for a number of years and is not aware of who is currently supplying and paying the cost of its supply. The association has accrued an amount of \$20,000 for these expenses, however until the supplier or funding body seeks recovery of the expense it is unable to determine the eventual cost, if any, for these supplies.

223,251

214,660

Note 15. Commitments

Operating Leases

Subsequent to the expiry of its lease, the association occupies Garry Owen House on a quarterly basis with a rental of \$1,994 (2017: \$1,994) per quarter.

Note 16. Related party transactions

Key management personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 13.

Transactions with related parties

During the year the association paid two committee member the standard commercial fees for delivering tutoring and writer mentoring services. The aggregate of these payments was \$2,550 (2017: \$4,000) with individual payments ranging from \$150 to \$970 (2017: \$150 to \$1,925).

All committee members are financial members of the association who have paid membership fees to the association during the year.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Note 17. Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2018 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the association's operations, the results of those operations, or the association's state of affairs in future financial years.

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) Committee members' declaration 31 December 2018

In the committee members' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and New South Wales legislation the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of committee members made pursuant to subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

On behalf of the committee members

Joel Naoum

Chair

15 April 2019

Jane Pochon Deputy Chair



LBW & Partners

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Partners

Rupa Dharmasiri Alan M Perrott George P Rochios Mark W Willock

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

Independent Audit Report to the members of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW) (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the committee members' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements, and the Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016.

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's 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 ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Committee Members for the Financial Report

The committee members of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013, the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 and for such internal control as the committee members determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee members are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee members either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee members are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.





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Partners

Rupa Dharmasiri Alan M Perrott George P Rochios Mark W Willock

NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

Independent Audit Report to the members of NSW Writers' Centre Inc (Trading as Writing NSW)

Auditor's Responsibilities 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 Australian 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located in the auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Rupaninga Dharmasiri Partner

LBW & Partners Chartered Accountants Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

