

Candidate statements 2024

Shankari Chandran – currently Deputy Chair

Shankari is a lawyer and author of *Song of the Sun God* (Perera-Hussein Publishing, 2017), *The Barrier* (Pan Macmillan Australia, 2017), *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* (Ultimo Press, 2022) winner of the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award, and the recently released *Safe Haven* (Ultimo Press, 2024). *Song of the Sun God* is being adapted for a six-part TV series. Her work has been long-listed for the International Dublin Literary Award (2019), and short-listed for the Fairway National Literary Award (2018) and the Norma K Hemming Award for Speculative Fiction (2018). She won the Blake-Beckett Trust Scholarship (2019) and the Create NSW Writers' Fellowship (2018/2019), essential support that enabled her to write *Chai Time*. Her stories reflect her ancestral Tamil background and its impact on contemporary Australia.

Eliza Twaddell – currently Treasurer

Eliza Twaddell is a Chartered Accountant and policy and stakeholder engagement professional with a focus on producing good outcomes for people experiencing vulnerable situations and circumstances. With a decade of experience in government, the private sector and not for profits, Eliza brings a diverse set of financial and strategic skills to the board. Eliza is a resident of Sydney's inner west, a keen reader and supporter of local organisations and causes.

Adam van Rooijen – current Board member

Adam van Rooijen completed a BA in Communications (Media Arts & Production) at UTS in 2005 and began his career in digital advertising before moving to London in 2009, where he transitioned his career into becoming a digital marketer for Random House. He has worked on campaigns for recognised brands like Lee Child, Bill Bryson, Dan Brown. He returned to Sydney where he worked at HarperCollins Publishers as Head of Digital and Marketing for the Harlequin division, developing book and author marketing campaigns for Rachael Johns, Tricia Stringer, Tea Cooper and in nonfiction for Naomi Simson, to name a few. He has worked on successful recognised collaborations and was recognised as a 2018 Mumbrella BEFEST finalist for the Mills & Boon meets The Bachelorette campaign. Currently, he is working at Apple, as marketing lead for Apple Music and Apple Podcasts.

Christine Ratnasingham – current Writing NSW member

Qualifications & experience: My philanthropic and extensive government experience (Australian Human Rights Commission, SBS, NSW & Commonwealth Government) will help provide guidance on funding considerations. My for-purpose experience will help my understanding of its operating environment and culture. Other useful experiences include: working and leading in changing environments; managing people; providing Board secretariat support; establishing a First Nations Advisory Council; developing and coordinating organisational policies; developing D&I initiatives; and coordinating compliance reporting, training, and awareness activities. I'm in the final stages of the AICD Company Directors course.

Contribution & writing: I've been a Writing NSW member since around 2010, have attended numerous festivals, talks and courses on poetry, memoir, children, young people, and adult fiction. It has been a safe and nurturing place to grow as a writer and poet. Late 2023, I launched my debut poetry book, *Soft Side of Red*. I have a passion for cultivating creativity, personally and among others. It will be an honour to use my skills and experience to help build this important forum for writers.

Laura Eadie – current Writing NSW member

My qualifications and experience include:

- Over 20 years in strategic advisory and leadership roles for large and small corporations, startups, not-for-profits and government agencies.
- Experience as a Chief Operating Officer, including managing Audit & Risk Committees.

- Graduate diploma in Finance & Investment, and significant experience preparing successful business cases, product design and launch, program design, and organisational design/maturity development to support growth.
- Extensive knowledge of NSW Government grant, budgeting, policy development and outsourcing processes (over 8 years NSW Government experience)

My contribution to NSWWC and writing to date:

- Current 'Year of the Novel' student, and took two NSWWC courses last year.
- Regular member of 'Seize the Day' writing group.
- Have published non-fiction 'policy' white papers on topical issues, prepared media releases, and secured national / international interviews, as well as running political briefings (e.g. Stocking Up: Securing our Marine Economy)