

# ANNUAL REPORT

Queensland Writers Centre



20  
23

**David Malouf**, Founding Member  
**Lori-Jay Ellis**, CEO  
**Dani Watson**, Johnno Award Recipient 2023



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Level 2, State Library of Queensland  
Stanley Street, South Brisbane

# About Our Organisation

At Queensland Writers Centre, we love stories. We love the writers who tell the stories and the readers who give them life. We love the way stories help us to understand and connect with those around us - while also gaining a greater understanding of ourselves.



We are the leading support and resource centre for writers and writing in Queensland, offering a comprehensive online and in-person range of services. We provide information and advice for anyone interested in writing, whatever their level of experience or ambition.

Queensland Writers Centre is a 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 far broader constituency of early career, emerging and established authors – across all genres, all styles and all parts of Australia. As a network, we partner with the Australian Society of Authors to ensure advocacy on a national level.

Our members are published authors, emerging writers, children's authors and illustrators, screenwriters, journalists, editors, agents, publishers, poets, storytellers, playwrights, cultural producers, freelance writers, teachers, academics, family historians and critics. We strive to support every member and provide them with the opportunities to write, publish and create.

## OUR VALUES:



**DIVERSITY** – We believe in creating opportunities for diverse voices and stories to be heard and celebrated.



**ACCESSIBILITY and INCLUSIVITY** – We are committed to ensuring our programs and services are accessible and inclusive.



**COLLABORATION** – We work collaboratively within the Queensland community – sharing our knowledge and expertise, being open to new ideas and contributing to and supporting our partners, stakeholders and the cultural sector.



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# CEO Report

It feels like 2023 was our first year in a long time with a clean run at the many things we do. Over one hundred programs and projects run by a very small staff is a figure you will often hear me quote. I say it because it is important for members to recognise how much is achieved by the organisation you belong to.

Our Varuna Fellowships entered their second year and attracted submissions from around Australia. Fellowships are available exclusively to members and it is a proud moment to see the list of applications. It's also incredibly difficult to only be able to choose two. Many thanks to our final judges: Madonna Duffy, Publishing Director at UQP, Dr Rohan Wilson, Senior Lecturer at QUT, and author and disability advocate, Josie Montano. The addition of a third First Nations Fellowship, thanks to the sponsorship of Noel Herbert of Full Circle Projects, was an additional highlight.

GenreCon opened with a rousing speech on *Forbidden Doors* by Mykaela Saunders, that spoke to her own ability to step through walls that should never have been built and to hold the door open for other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers coming behind her. It was a fantastic image to open the event that featured Garth Nix, Nalini Singh, and Natasha Lester.

We also paid homage to the past this year with a special issue of *WQ – Thea's Train*. The older we become as an organisation, the more important it is to reflect on our history and remember the people and the reasons behind our foundation. Thea Astley's humour, insight and forthrightness are a guiding force for us still. There are so many stories of Thea and the train, and how it all came about, that we're no longer sure of the truth.

Whatever the details, it's with Thea in mind that we continue to push the boundaries of where writers can go and what a small team can do.

**Lori-Jay Ellis**  
CEO

Queensland Writers Centre





# Chair Report

It has been an absolute privilege to serve as the Chair of the Management Committee over the last two years and I am thankful to members for giving me this opportunity and trust. During this time, I have gained a deeper understanding and insight into the considerable commitment and skill of the Management Committee, volunteers, and staff, and seen the thoughtful work they put in, often behind the scenes.

The current management team of Colin Hester, Jemma Pollari, Justin Malbon, David Shield, and Stephen Torre have been an absolute pleasure to work with. Major highlights have been meeting the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts, Leeanne Enoch; the continuing of our excellent relationship with Arts Queensland; the vibrant Quills event, and GenreCon!

A delightful highlight during my term as Chair, was recognising those who have given service and support to other writers at the presentation of the Johnnos, where unsung heroes are recognised for service and skill building of their peers. Everyone was delighted to have David Malouf, a founding member of the Writers Centre and whose book the awards are named after, in attendance.

The Writing Friday program continues to spread. This program particularly struck MP Leeanne Enoch, as excellent for its community building capacity. Another outcome has been bringing diverse people into the orbit of the Writers Centre, including First Nations, and increasing their awareness of opportunities to further develop their craft or share their work.

Our CEO is to be commended for her innovations and enthusiasm. The staff and Management Committee diligently address challenges to ensure the Writers Centre will be here for many years to come. The last year has seen the establishment of a Reconciliation Action Plan, projects working with Inala Wangarra, increased work with writers in rural areas, and ongoing work with UpBeat Arts.

To all of you who have supported the Writers Centre, participated in its programs, and served its members in a paid or volunteer capacity, many thanks.

**June Perkins**  
**Chair**

Queensland Writers Centre  
Management Committee

# Regional Engagement

The year began with several stops to deliver, the *My Story, My Voice* project in Mt Isa, Cairns, Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Logan. Funded by the Investing in Women program through the Department of Justice and the Attorney-General, the project focused on empowerment workshops for women and girls and culminated in the publication of the *My Story, My Voice* anthology. Featuring 19 diverse female voices, the stories covered a range of stories of women's experiences. There was a possibility that this could be a difficult read. Despite the content, the stories were filled with positivity and hope for the future.

Stay Connected, funded by the Department of Housing, focused on women over 55 facing social isolation, loneliness and possible homelessness. Delivering workshops throughout South West Queensland, we were able to create connections, pathways to community, and methods for sustainable future activities to keep women engaged. The project partnered with HOWSS, Housing Older Women's Support Services, a Brisbane-based hub for face-to-face support and statewide services for women experiencing housing stress.

The belief in writing and creativity as a means to support community members is growing and backed by the success of our programs. Publications created as part of these programs and materials that assist in ongoing connection enable our workshops to be starting points in the community. Our programs always aim to support long term community building.

Writing Friday remains at the forefront of our regional engagement. This year, Writing Friday is supported by a Queensland Arts Showcase Program grant and an Industry Placement. Cody Hargreaves was appointed as our Writing Friday industry placement and tasked with establishing eight new regional Writing Friday locations. In addition, funding was secured to send authors to these regions. The funded portion of the program began in 2023 and will continue into 2024.

We continue to support regional festivals and this year held writer consults at the Capricorn Coast Writers Festival, panels at Words Out West and delivered financial support to various state based festivals through the Festival Fund.



*Stay Connected Maranoa*

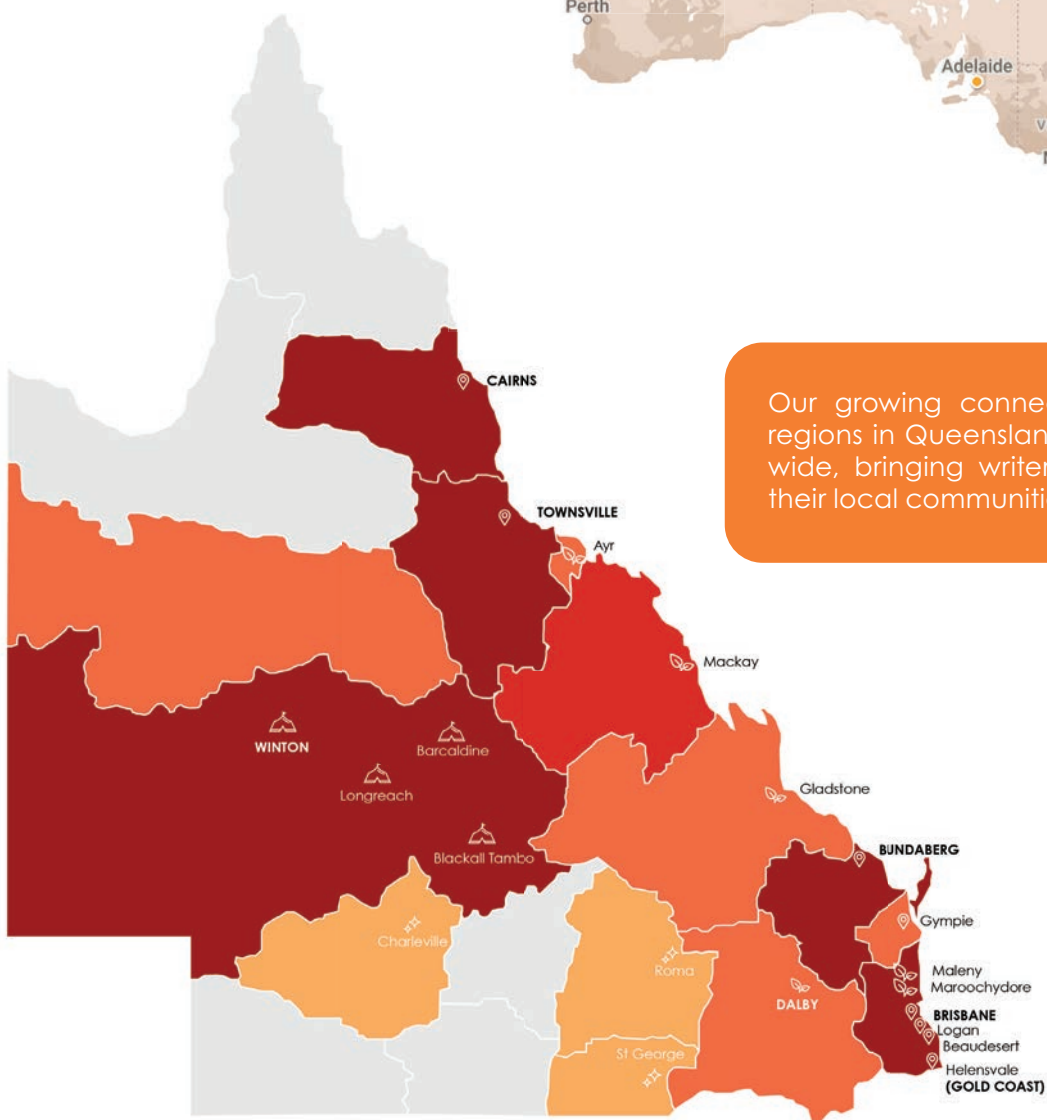


*Investing in Women Mt Isa*



## Membership

Our regional Queensland and national members find value in our programs and services, delivered to writers when and where they need them.



Our growing connections to the regions in Queensland run far and wide, bringing writers together in their local communities.

2021 - present

- Established and Growing
- Project or Festival Engagement
- Small committed and growing
- New and Emerging
- Not yet established





# Membership

*Queensland Writers Centre's membership base continues to be the lifeblood of our organisation.*

Throughout 2023, Queensland Writers Centre has maintained an active membership of over 2000 members. We continue to respond and adapt to the needs of our membership, and are immensely proud of the active and diverse writing community we have fostered across Queensland and Australia.

This year:

- Increased funding for Fellowship & Access Fund - supporting our core value of accessibility.
- A large number of two-year and five-year memberships were taken out - an invaluable protection for the future of Queensland Writers Centre.
- Membership milestones, book giveaways and publications (eg. Scenic Rim Youth Anthologies, Our Story Our Voice, Right Left Write, Writing Queensland) allowed us the opportunity to showcase and celebrate works written by our members.

## 45%

of our members live  
- and write! -  
in regional Queensland

## 25%

of members are  
concession

## 10%

of members live  
interstate

## 10%

of memberships are  
youth members





## Member Story



Siang Lu is the award-winning author of *The Whitewash*. His next book, *Ghost Cities*, will be out in 2024. He is the co-creator of *The Beige Index* and was an awardee of the Top 40 Under 40 Asian-Australians at the Asian-Australian Leadership Awards.

Behind the bio is a connection with Queensland Writers Centre that goes back to 2019, when Siang first became a member and requested a letter of support. Throughout his time as a member, Siang has participated in our programs and sought support as he worked towards publication. As an Adaptable shortlister he underwent pitch training and has gone on to utilise these skills in pitching his work more extensively. As a first-time published author he's written for WQ and presented workshops on program and at GenreCon.

Siang is a great supporter of Queensland Writers Centre and an example of the changing relationship between the centre and its members as they progress through their careers. After contributing to the WQ *Thea's Train* issue this year, Siang is excited about working with us to make the train happen one day!

## Johnno Award Recipient



Our Library Services program works with councils across the state to deliver services and programs to writers in their local communities. Dani Watson and her team at Gold Coast Libraries has been one of our strongest supporters in delivering these programs.

Dani's enduring love for reading has guided her career path, leading her to dedicate herself to promoting literacy in her community. Currently serving as the Gold Coast Libraries Program Development Officer for Readers and Writers, Dani actively seeks ways to empower local writers.

She has supported Writing Friday, helping to establish and continue three locations across the coast, Helensvale, Elanora, and Southport - three of our strongest, most loyal and well-resourced writing groups. She is an advocate for providing services to readers and writers in her local community, largely behind the scenes, and her partnership with Queensland Writers Centre has been valuable in many ways.

Congratulations to Dani on becoming the 2023 Johnno Award recipient.

# GenreCon.

FORBIDDEN DOORS

There was a playful start to the weekend with the launch night dress up and drinks. Leading the way was Lori-Jay as Wednesday Addams. There were hobbits, gladiators, and steam punks, but Dolores Umbridge won the night with her signature pink outfit.

On Saturday, Forbidden Doors were opened as Mykaela Saunders gave the GenreCon 2023 opening speech. Her words were thoughtful, bold and inspiring. And our patron, Nalini Singh, and fellow high tea aficionado, Natasha Lester, won hearts with their generosity and enthusiasm throughout the weekend.

At the end of an action-packed weekend our keynote speaker, Garth Nix, created magic with his story of Irish fog and a found Roman coin that he gave away to a delighted member of the crowd. It was a fitting end to the weekend as we pondered a name for our many regular GenreCon attendees. By the end of the session a name had been decided upon – GenreConjurers – and next year's international keynote speaker, Patrick Ness, had been announced.

*Garth Nix, Jennifer St George, Amy Andrews, Lori-Jay Ellis, Sandra Makaresz, Madonna Duffy*



*June Perkins, Geneve Flynn, Mykaela Saunders, Jay Kristoff*



*Geneve Flynn, Lori-Jay Ellis, Pamela Jeffs, Lauren Elise Daniels*



Natasha Lester, Nalini Singh



QWC Staff



Garth Nix



Professor Umbridge



Wednesday and Frankenstein's Bride



Elf



Anne Mok, Alex Dupriez, June Perkins



Jay Kristoff

# Competitions

Siang Lu, Staff, Katherine Brabon



Huda the Goddess



Laurie Ross Trott

## ADAPTABLE

In its 5th year, Adaptable continues to strengthen its reputation as a pathway for published and unpublished authors to connect with screen producers and forge long-term relationships that help build their careers.

This year's event featured our CEO, Lori-Jay Ellis, in conversation with Leigh McGrath, producer of *Secrets & Lies*, *Harrow* and *Tidelands*. We also hosted a panel with past Adaptable success story, Amy Andrews, and producer Tristan Barr, who came together as part of Adaptable 2022. For the first time this year, a position was made available for a Queensland Poetry poet. The first recipient was Huda Fadlemawla, known as Huda the Goddess.

Adaptable is presented with the support of Screen Queensland.

*"Adaptable gave me the confidence to pursue working in film because the honour of being selected for the program and the people I have met have been invaluable. QWC runs THE BEST programs!"*

**Alli Sinclair**

## PUBLISHABLE

Connecting emerging writers with publishers and agents, the Publishable program has been running for 14 years. Beginning as the Queensland Writers Centre/Hachette Manuscript Development program, the program was brought into the Ables programs in 2019.

The program now caters to writers in all genres, including literary. This year, shortlisted writers pitched to agents and publishers from Simon & Schuster, Allen & Unwin, Pan Macmillan, Pantera, Jane Novak Literary Agency, UQP, Penguin, Hachette, Left Bank Literary, Yellow Brick Books, IP, Zeitgeist Agency, Hawkeye Publishing, NewSouth Books, and Transit Lounge.

## SCRIPTABLE

Focusing on emerging screenwriters, Scriptable offers a mentorship program to five selected writers each year. Based on applications received, we develop a free seminar each year that addresses an area seen as most in need of refinement. This year's area of focus was dialogue. Screenwriter and script editor, Stephen Davis, presented the 2023 seminar online.

Five finalists met with Screen Queensland's Phil Enchelmaier, for practical guidance on funding and opportunities available to screenwriters. They were also matched with an industry mentor for five hours of one-on-one development.

***“The QWC Self-Publishing In Print & Digital Seminar with Kylie Chan was well presented and informative. I came away with a greater understanding of how the publishing industry works for authors and learnt much practical information that will enable me to self-publish books in digital and print with increased confidence. It was the most worthwhile seminar I’ve attended in terms of the value I obtained for the time and money invested. Congratulations to Kylie Chan and QWC for putting on an excellent seminar and making it available both in person and through streaming.”***

# Program

This was our first uninterrupted year of programming for several years. We were able to schedule three separate Year of the Novel groups, including one in Toowoomba. This represents a return to the regions for Year of the Novel, and what a kickstart.

Crowd favourites like Nick Earls returned, QLA winners Melissa Ashley and Mary-Rose McCall presented along with emerging author, Siang Lu. Diverse voices were heard with workshops like Jason Fisher's Autism and the Writer. QLA winner Quentin Beresford delivered a workshop on Narrative Non-fiction.

Poetry was well represented by Philip Neilsen and Felicity Plunkett's popular feedback clinic. Other presenters new to Queensland Writers Centre's program included Balli Jaswal and Katherine Tamiko Arguile.



## Libraries

QWC is now in over 60 libraries throughout the state, presenting workshops and delivering projects. Writing Friday has expanded to 37 locations, with QASP funding supporting the expansion to eight new regional libraries.

For the first time this year we utilised our library network to expand Brisbane Children's Writers Festival and deliver satellite events in an expanded number of areas. Future programs will see even more expansion and utilisation of libraries throughout Queensland.



# Services

Members continue to engage with our service offerings from higher-end editing, manuscript assessments and mentorships, to more entry level consults for writers needing advice on next steps. Services are a great way for members to connect with the Centre and develop their craft. They also represent employment opportunities for our established writers and editors.

Services demonstrate the full remit of the centre in supporting writers at all levels from aspiring, to emerging, to established. These are valuable opportunities to pass on knowledge and skills, elevate writers' work and improve their abilities both on the page and with the business of writing.

Accessible Writing is a growing part of our service offering, providing assistance to eligible NDIS participants. We are incredibly proud of the work we do in this area, as it creates a truly inclusive environment where all writers are valued.

In employing experienced writers and editors to undertake assessments, mentorships and editorial work, Queensland Writers Centre promotes an industry that pays writers fairly.

*"One big take-away from the mentorship was that talking about the writing process is really beneficial. I learned that challenges I was having weren't failings, but were just part of the process. This was a revelation, and is something that can only be known from talking to other writers and dispelling the myth that we sit down at the desk and churn out perfect pages every day (unless you're Patrick White, who didn't change much from his first drafts at all)."*

**Carolyn Hughes**

Completed extended mentorship with Emily Maguire



**ADOWER**





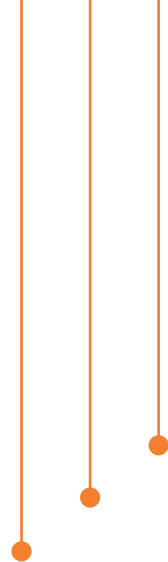
**ATTITUDE**

# Residencies

Providing time and space to write, our residencies continue to be a sought-after experience for members. Held over a ten-week period, residents not only have time to write but are able to be part of the day-to-day goings on of the Centre.

The 2023 recipient of the Flinthart residency was Sophia Davidson Gluyas. The Flinthart residency was established in 2020 thanks to the generosity of the late Aiki Flinthart, a passionate Queensland Writers Centre member and successful independent author.

The Flinthart now relies on the generous support of donations, which continue to allow us to provide this incredible opportunity.



**Alex Hyndman Hill**



**Amaliah Grace**



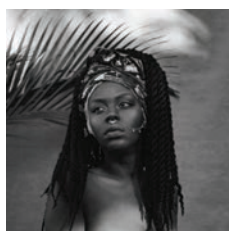
**Charlotte Barkla**



**Elle Croxford**



**Josie Montano**



**Huda Fadlelmawla**



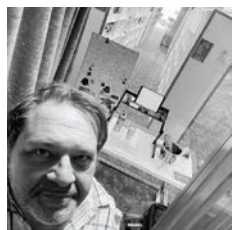
**Margaret Atkin**



**Melissa Ashley**



**Sophia Davidson Gluyas**



**Stephen Scott**



**Steve Treffery**



**Svetlana Sterlin**



**Yvonne Mes**



# Writing Friday

2023 saw a large spike in new Writing Friday groups. The year opened with 18 active Writing Friday groups, and closed with 35 (plus two more scheduled to commence in 2024). This marks 19 new groups started in 2023. We were proud to see high attendance and engagement across all these groups. The average session had a size of approximately 6-9 attendees, with standout groups like the original Writing Friday at QWC consistently booking out at nearly 30 attendees each week.

Queensland Writers Centre made a number of location visits to the groups at Bribie Island,

Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, and more, to build relationships and check in on group needs. 2023 also saw the first inter-state Writing Friday at Burnside, South Australia – a successful collaboration with Writers SA.

As part of Queensland Writers Centre's QASP grant, starting in July 2023, we aimed to commence eight new groups in Regional Queensland. By the close of 2023, six of the eight groups had successfully kicked off, with the remaining two scheduled to commence in the new year. The other objectives of this grant will continue to be met in 2024.



# Varuna Fellowships

After a successful first year, our Varuna Fellowships again attracted a large number of high calibre entries making the selection process incredibly difficult. Thank you to our final judges: Madonna Duffy, Publishing Director at UQP, Dr Rohan Wilson, Senior Lecturer at QUT, and author and disability advocate, Josie Montano.

With the Australian Government's release of the National Cultural Policy—Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place, on 30 January 2023, it seemed fitting for us to find an additional place when a strong First Nations voice presented itself. In recognition of the crucial place of First Nations stories we sought additional funds for a First Nations Fellowship. Thanks to past Management Committee member, Nicola McDougall, sponsorship was secured from Noel Herbert of Full Circle Projects.



**Kristina Olsson**

Kristina Olsson is an award-winning writer of fiction, non-fiction and journalism. Her 2009 novel *The China Garden* won the Barbara Jefferis Award and was shortlisted for the Kibble Prize. Her 2013 memoir, *Boy, Lost*, garnered multiple awards including the Queensland, New South Wales and West Australian Premiers awards for non-fiction and the Kibble Prize. Her most recent novel, *Shell*, launched the legendary Scribner Australia literary imprint and was shortlisted in several major literary awards. She is currently working on a memoir set in Sweden and northern Norway that tracks the life of another lost child.



**Nadia Mahjouri**

Nadia Mahjouri is a Moroccan-Australian mother of five. She is a writer, group facilitator and counsellor, specialising in perinatal mental health. She has a professional background in health policy and academia, focusing on ethics and feminist philosophy.

Her writing has been shortlisted for The Deborah Cass Prize, QWC Publishable Competition, and SBS Emerging Writers Competition. She was awarded a 2022 Arts Tas ASA Mentorship and a lutruwita playwriting mentorship from Australian Plays Transform.

Her short story *Leaving Home* will be published in forthcoming anthology *Emergence* (2023 Hardie Grant) and her debut novel *The Half Truth* will be published in 2025 by Penguin Random House.



**Nadia Johansen**

Nadia is a Gunggari person from south-west Queensland who is living on unceded Yuggera and Turrbal land. She is currently studying a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing at QUT and has a background working in Indigenous community organisations. Nadia loves genre fiction, especially Indigenous Futurism.

# WQ Magazine

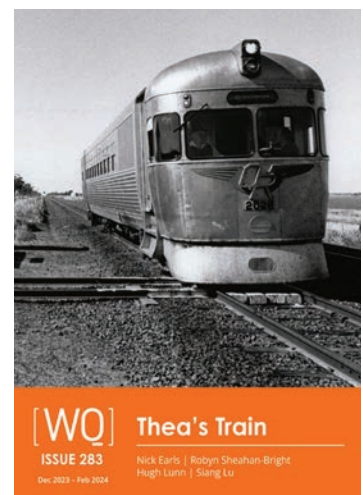
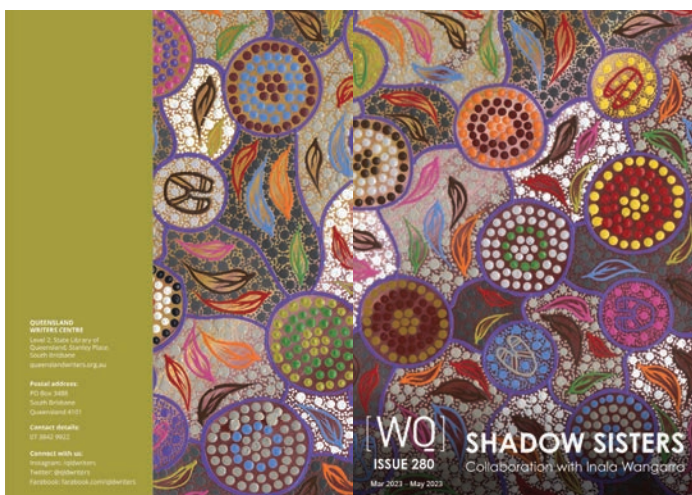
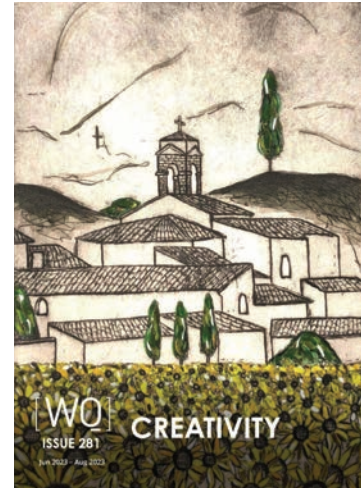
The flagship publication of Queensland Writers Centre, WQ is distributed electronically ever quarter to members and a print copy is also available. Each issue is reflective of what's happening at the Centre and includes poetry, member milestones, competitions & opportunities, publisher updates and stories from writers.

This year's issues were particularly special. We started in collaboration with Inala Wangarra on the *Shadow Sisters* issue 280, featuring First Nations women's stories and poems.

*Creativity*, issue 281, followed with cover art by leading Australian contemporary printmaker, Kate Piekutowski. Delving into all things creative, from AI to theory to writing practice, it offered insights and opinions from emerging authors including Nadia Mahjouri and Charlotte Barkla.

Issue 282, *Adventure*, was dedicated to our growing youth audience with stories by best-selling children's author, Lian Tanner, local young adult author, Maree Kimberley, and young writer, Amber Zhao. Cover art featured the 2023 Brisbane Children's Writers Festival poster artwork on the theme of Adventure.

The final issue for the year was a sentimental favourite as we went back through the archives for special issue 283, *Thea's Train*. Reflecting on the Queensland Writers Trains of 1990 and 1992, *Thea's Train* included original photography by Christopher Ellis who travelled on and documented the train. Inaugural director of Queensland Writers Centre, Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright, wrote beautifully of her experience and reflected on the writers who had since passed away. Other train participants included Nick Earls, Ross Clark and Hugh Lunn.



# Brisbane Children's Writers Festival

Adventure was the theme for 2023 and what an adventure it was. Bigger than ever, the festival attracted over 300 young writers between the main event at SLQ and satellite events held at various library partners, including: Goondiwindi, Logan, Caboolture, Esk, Bribie Island, Upper Coomera, and Gympie.

The growth of BCWF over three years has been astounding and firmly demonstrates the need for youth-centred activities. Internationally successful children's author Lian Tanner presented her Challenge Accepted, dress up and write workshop. Story Hemi-Morehouse gave industry insight into scriptwriting. Dave Lowe guided everyone in Choose Your Own Adventure. Sona Babajanyan uncovered the role of an illustrator, and Rowan Campbell helped everyone create their own zine.



BRISBANE CHILDREN'S  
WRITERS FESTIVAL



# Youth Writing



We are incredibly proud of the work being done in the youth writing space, which has now expanded to include Youth Writing Saturday for 10–16-year-olds and Middle Ground for 16–20-year-olds.

The addition of a dedicated group for young people transitioning from school to university and work plays an important role in keeping young people engaged with writing and their writing peers.

Unlike other pursuits, such as sport and music, writing doesn't naturally lean to socialising and making friends. Through our Youth Writing program, young people are able to find their tribe and create friendships that help keep them connected with writing. Our youth tutors cover topics relevant and interesting to the group.

Both the Youth Writing program and Brisbane Children's Writers Festival are helping us discover and develop Queensland's writers of the future.



# Auditor's Report

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2023 presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2023, and of its financial performance for the

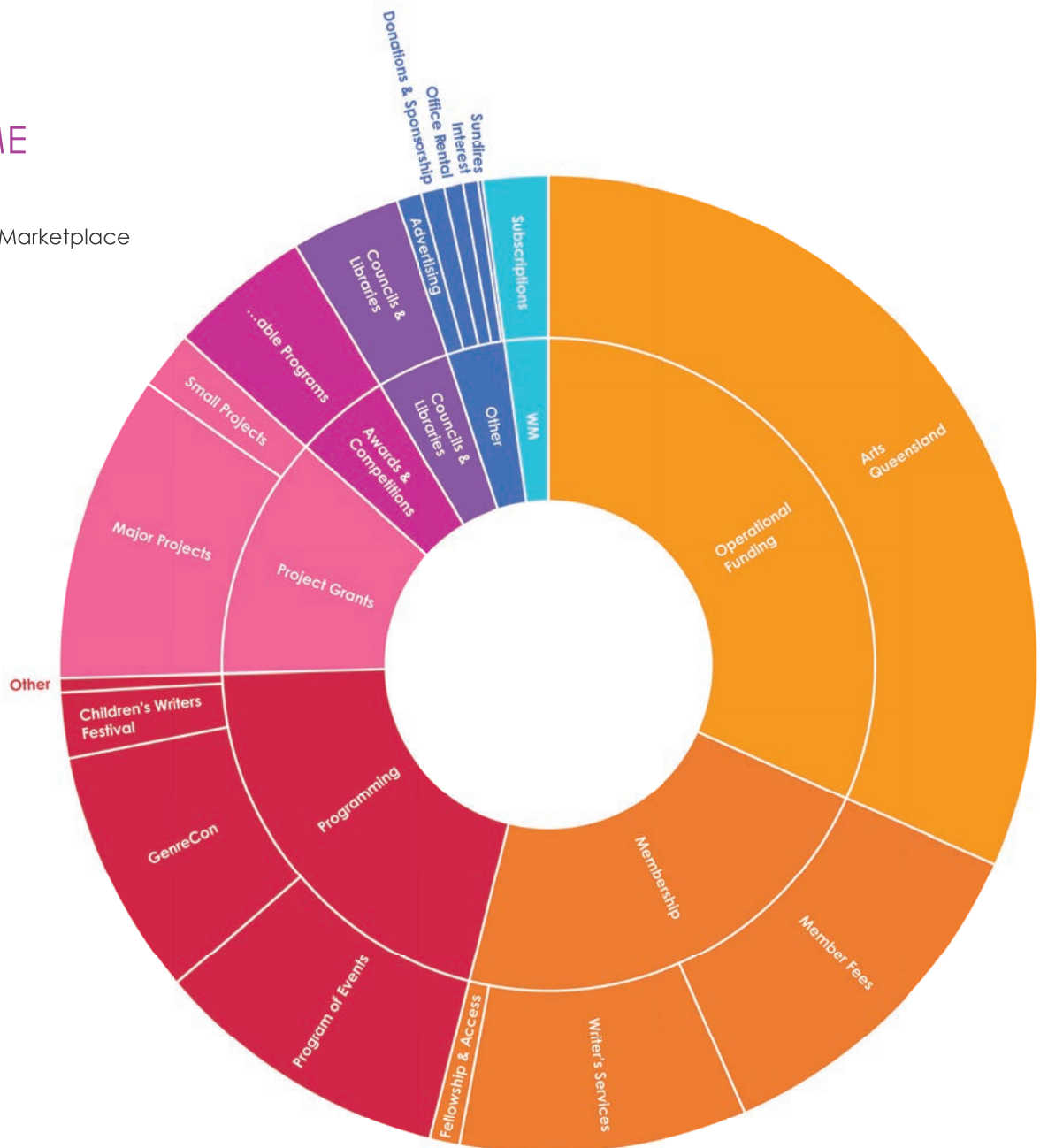
year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (QLD) 2020).

James Kenward  
Auditor

## INCOME

### Graph Key

WM: Writer's Marketplace





# Treasurer's Report

On behalf of the Management Committee, I am pleased to present the Queensland Writers Centre Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2023. While reported income is higher than last year's at \$1,009,803 (2022: \$902,417), income and expenses remain to some extent impacted by the aftermath of the pandemic and 2022 floods. Despite that, programs and other Centre activities have generated healthy revenues, which assist with the Centre's continual growth.

We continue to benefit from Arts Queensland operational funding.

Additionally, the Centre earned income from its own activities regarding programs, competitions and membership service offerings for its members. These activities have increased year on year, generating increased revenue.

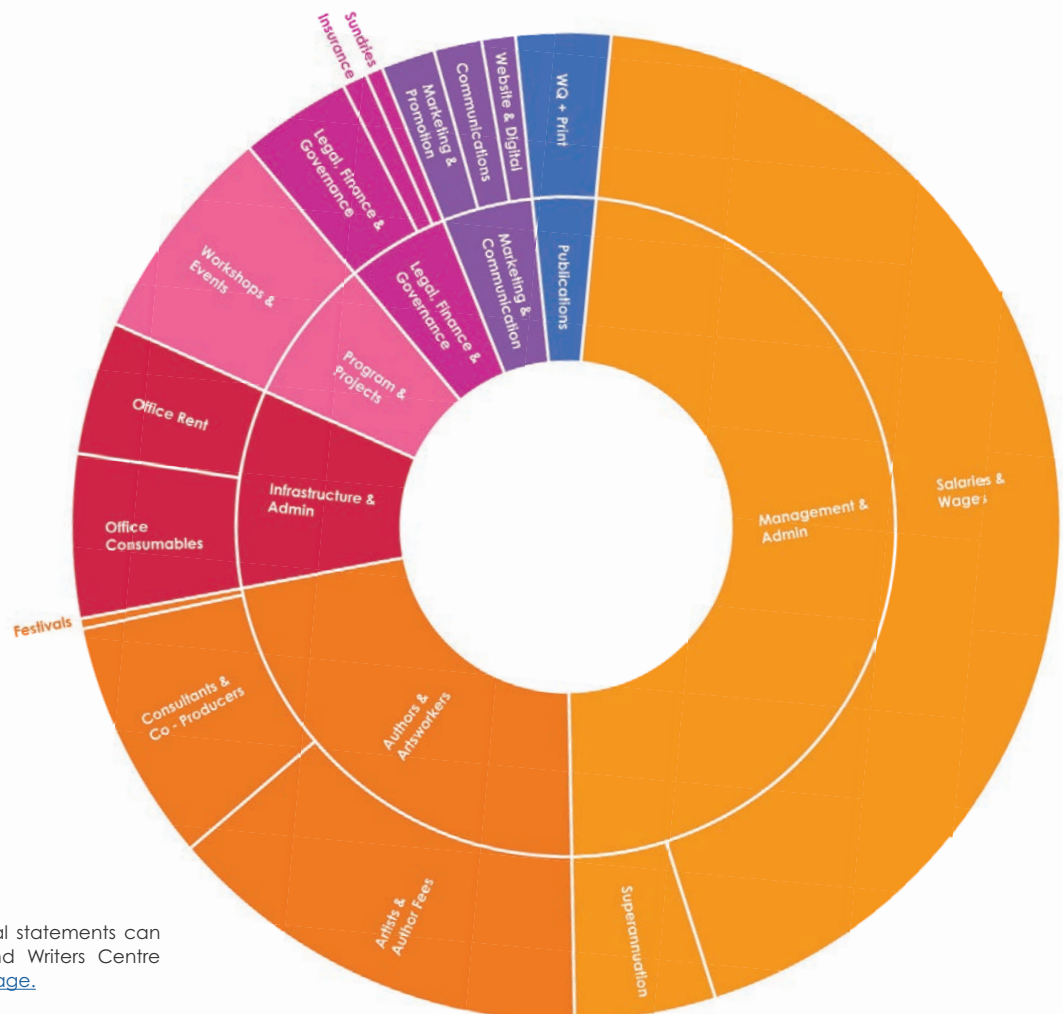
Reported expenses of \$1,003,255 (2022: \$893,014) do not exceed reported revenue, thereby reflecting a sound financial and budgetary position. The Centre continues to hold funds in reserve for both the Fellowship and Access Fund and the multi-year Varuna Residency partnership programs. The net result is a

surplus of \$6,548 (2022: \$9,403). The Balance Sheet reports total assets of \$598,000 (2022: \$425,622), total liabilities of \$345,329 (2022: \$179,499) and total net assets of \$252,671 (2022: \$246,123).

Overall, the Centre remains in a strong and sustainable financial position as it moves into the third year of the current 4-year partnership arrangement with Arts Queensland.

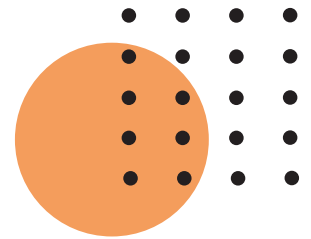
**Justin Malbon**  
Treasurer

## EXPENDITURE



**Note:** The full audited financial statements can be found on the Queensland Writers Centre website on our [Governance Page](#).

# Partnerships



We are proud to work with organisations, groups and industry partners from across Queensland and Australia to deliver diverse projects. Thank you for your support throughout 2023.

Queensland Writers Centre is based at the State Library of Queensland on Kurilpa Point in South Brisbane. Named after the native water rat (kuril), Kurilpa Point has a significant history as an important meeting place, and we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we reside. As we operate throughout the entire state of Queensland, we respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of all the Nations on which we meet.

## PARTNERS



Queensland Writers Centre is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

## TENANT PARTNERS



## FESTIVAL PARTNERS



## UNIVERSITIES



INDUSTRY & PROGRAM PARTNERS



LIBRARIES & COUNCILS



NATIONAL WRITERS CENTRE NETWORK



# Thank You

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair | June Perkins  
Vice Chair | Jemma Pollari  
Treasurer | Justin Malbon  
Secretary | Colin Hester  
Member | David Shield  
Member | Stephen Torre

Vice Chair | Lara Cain Gray  
Treasurer | Mary MwcWeeney  
Member | Cassandra Hall  
Member | Nicola McDougall  
Member | Peter Long  
Member | Rohan Wilson

## STAFF

CEO | Lori-Jay Ellis  
Services & Reading | Anne Varnes  
Publications & Grants | Sandra Makaresz  
Operations & Program | Charlie Hester  
Community & Membership | Cody Hargreaves  
Finance | Peri Cummins  
Graphic Design | Bronte Mark  
Membership | Emma Mitchell  
Projects | Craig Cauchi  
Projects | Stella Peterson  
Projects | Krishna Patel

## WRITING FRIDAY AMBASSADORS

Allison Sciani  
Alyson Walton  
Barbara Hunt  
Brenda Peupelmann  
Brett Coster  
Carol Libke  
Celia Berrell  
Cody Hargreaves  
Colin Williams  
Craig Cauchi  
Deidre Noy  
Ellen Clarke  
Emma Ranie  
Geoff Barlowe  
Jacqueline Read  
Jen Readford  
Jillian Field  
Jim Myhill  
Joanna Barrett  
Joanne Tracey  
Kaitlyn Newell  
Karen Laidlaw  
Kate Kelson  
Kathy Carr  
Kay Woodward  
Laree Chapman  
Leanne Dodd  
Lee Jones  
Michael Lloyd  
Nadia Cowperthwaite  
Raelene Purtill  
Rhiannon Elton  
Rosemary Jewell  
Roy David  
Sally Ryhanen  
Sharon Kelly  
Stuart Mackenzie  
Thomas Good  
Tina Clark  
Tracey Rosen  
Tracey Zielinski  
Vanessa Brennan

## VOLUNTEERS

Alex Dupriez  
Ari Fisher  
Charo Palenzuela  
Danielle Toffoli  
Emma Gaisbauer  
Grace Barnes  
Max Irwin  
Thomas Good

## WORK EXPERIENCE

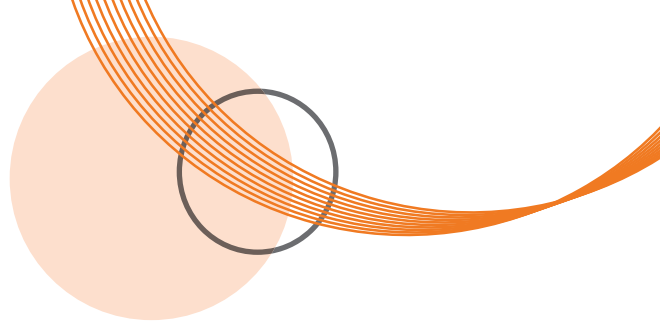
Amos Williams  
Levi Clarke

## CASUAL PROJECTS

Ainsley Botterell  
Connor Harvey  
Danielle Toffoli  
Harri Gordon  
Helen Roche  
Maddyson Colley  
Nicholas Hargreaves  
Olivia De Zilva  
Phoenix Senhenn  
Rory Hawkins  
Sophie Cornick

## INTERNS

Alfie Green  
Amelia Lewis-Castle  
Bea Warren  
Chloe Lethbridge Salt  
Dominique Meehan  
Ho Ming Matthew Wong  
Jade Marshall Stoltenberg  
Johannes Hutagalung  
Kayleigh Demosthemis  
Kristie Mackereth-Vandyke  
Liv Dunford  
Maddyson Colley  
Phoenix Senhenn  
Pinta Kearns  
Skye Kelly  
Sophie Tomassen  
Tierre-Lee Curtis



## BETA READERS

Alli Hayden  
Angela Glindemann  
Ann Arlott  
Ann Farley  
Anne Golding-Ross  
Ariya Say  
Brock Scholte  
Catherine Thorsen  
Christina Fenton  
Christine Ferdinands  
Christine Walton  
Colleen Logie  
David Shield  
Dornell Wylie  
Elizabeth Mills  
Erica Krieger  
Grace Wilson  
Jacinta Rosetto  
Jamba Tashi  
Jeff Stoward  
Jemma Hargreaves  
Jennifer McLennan  
Jo Ruksenas  
Josie Yarham  
Juanita Simmonds  
Judy Clark  
Justine Devlin  
Karen Kenny  
Katelyn Davies  
Kathy George  
Kee Burton  
Kelly Roubenzi  
Kiera Hopf  
Kris Emery  
Kristy Hayward  
Lachlan Driscoll  
Louise Gibbon  
Maggie Gale  
Mia Paton  
Nico Hinze  
Oliver Baker-Karaka  
Olivia Tollich  
Paris Thompson

Paul Hathaway  
Penelope Shaw  
Rachel Zurvas  
Raelene Purtill  
Rebeka Stevenson  
Ruth May  
Seb Petroni  
Sofia Aves  
Steph Maker  
Stephen Walker  
Sue Grotherr  
Suzy Darlington  
Tamara Smuth  
Tina Strachan  
Tony Colley  
Vi Trang  
William Robertson

## DONORS

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Alayne Campbell  
Alex Dupriez  
Alison Ferguson  
Alison Whipp  
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Anne E Stewart  
Bianca Millroy  
Cecili Lander  
Daan Spijer  
Daphne Alexopoulou  
Darlene Jattke  
Donna Bennett  
Donna Weeks  
Elspeth Lee  
Emma Rosetta  
Erin Clarke  
Fiona Ferguson  
Fiona Robertson  
Flo Kempen  
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Jenny Best  
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June Perkins  
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Kayt Duncan  
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May Marshall  
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Michelle Malawkin  
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Penelope Robbins  
Rae Kersley  
Rob Whiddon  
Rosemary Stride  
Sandy Curtis  
Stephen Irwin  
Steve MinOn  
Susan Hutton  
Susan Lambe  
Tara Mitchell  
Tim Cummins  
TP O'Brien

# Looking Forward

Turning our focus to 2024, we are encouraged by the continued growth of all aspects of the Centre's activities and are ready to undertake the challenge to consolidate the gains of 2023. GenreCon has already sold 30% of tickets for 2024 and is expected to be an exceptional year. Loyal Genreconjurers are the backbone of the event. Their enthusiasm for the event, willingness to support newcomers and investment in the future of GenreCon makes this event a highlight of every year.

In 2025, GenreCon will focus on the business of writing with internationally successful romance author and publishing coach, Steff Green, as our keynote speaker.

We will look to the Ables suite of programs to provide key areas of innovation with a broadening wand we will always be focused on bespoke experiences for each year's participants, and open to changes that keep these programs relevant.

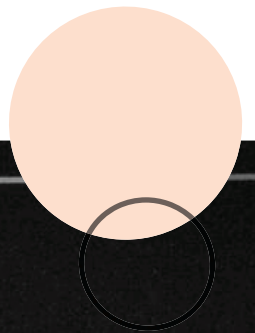
Funding has been secured that will ensure our coverage of regional areas grows. QASP funding for Writing Friday will continue in 2024. Stay Connected will run through the first half of the year and Telling Our Stories To The World will run throughout 2024.

As always, we most look forward to serving our members, wherever they might be, and providing exceptional support for writers whether they be aspiring, emerging, developing or established. Queensland Writers Centre will always aim to be a place where every voice can be heard.





Lori-Jay Ellis, Yvette Holt, June Perkins





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