

WRITING
____WA.



ANNUAL REPORT

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It has been a year filled with controversies for Australian writers, publishers and literary festivals. It has also been a turbulent year for Writing WA. Nonetheless, the new staff and Board have embraced this opportunity to refine the organisation's strategic focus and reaffirm relationships with our members and, more broadly, the writing sector in Western Australia.

Peta Wootton joined Writing WA as CEO in June 2025. An experienced leader of not-for-profit, community-based organisations, Peta is the former CEO of the Fremantle Women's Health Centre. She has a track record of good governance and working with others to ensure services foster creativity, safety and accessibility. Peta has played an important role in consolidating Writing WA's focus and ensuring that our advocacy work on behalf of the writing sector is felt at the state government level and nationally through organisations such as the National Writers' Centre Network and Writing Australia.

Writing WA also hired a new Office Administrator, Georgie Lockyer. Georgie has been essential in engaging our membership, assisting with events, and developing digital content.

The Board of Management has been hard at work developing a revised strategic focus for Writing WA, including four strategic pillars that underpin our activity:

- Advocate on behalf of the WA writing sector
- Build capacity and connection
- Foster a diverse writing community
- Celebrate WA writers and storytellers.

These pillars represent a renewed commitment to collaborate with other writing organisations to address sector-wide challenges. The Board has also been reviewing its membership structure and Rules of Association in order to ensure members' voices are heard.

I write my contribution to this year's annual report with excitement and anticipation for what the future holds, as Writing WA continues to consolidate its position as the peak body for Western Australia's writing sector!

Best regards,

Per Henningsgaard



Left to right: Lisa Collyer, Holden Sheppard, Amuktha Bhamidimaray, Georgie Lockyer, Per Henningsgaard

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure to introduce the Writing WA Annual Report, 2025. Over the course of 12 months, we delivered:

- Stories in All Spaces (Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport) delivered 104 cross-form activities, connecting audiences and creatives in new ways.
- Love to Read Local (Copyright Agency) ran for the third year, with a marked increase in non-metropolitan events through a new collaboration with regional libraries. In addition to connecting readers with their favourite authors and illustrators, a new panel format hosted by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators focused on sector development.
- Emerging Writers' Program (Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport) began at Fremantle Press as a four-writing centre partnership. Writing WA continued this unique program, pairing 20 emerging prose writers and poets with highly regarded mentors over 12 months, with opportunities in manuscript and craft development and industry events.
- We celebrated Western Australia's "night of nights" with the Premier's Book Awards and sponsored the 2025 Book of the Year, which went to Alan Fyfe for *G-d, Sleep, and Chaos*.

- Writing WA actively engaged with the national advocacy campaign against exemptions to data mining, as recommended by the Productivity Commission.
- Writing WA is participating in the reactivation of the National Writers' Centre Network and a connected approach with Writing Australia.
- Writing WA ended the year (31 December 2025) in a strong financial position and \$68,165 surplus.



CEO Peta Wootton & Premier's Book Awards Winner Allan Fyfe

I would like to thank the previous Writing WA staff and current staff member, Georgie Lockyer (Office Administrator), and acknowledge the dedicated and experienced Board of Management.

Thank you also to our funders, Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport and the Copyright Agency.

Peta Wootton

STORIES IN ALL SPACES



Left to right: Brendan Ritchie, Lisa Collyer and Holden Sheppard

Total Number of
Event Attendees

8,301

Number of
Activities

104

Authors &
Facilitators Engaged

77

Collaborated with
Raine Square to
launch

**Short Story
Dispenser**

Episodes of the
'Podstreet Podcast'

69

Online
Engagement

83,000

Stories in All Spaces was an innovative new program funded by Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport in 2025. West Australian literary talent was showcased through cross-artform activations in diverse locations.

The program illuminated the often hidden connections between literature and other creative disciplines, demonstrating how these forms enrich and depend on one another.

Throughout the year, Writing WA collaborated with new partners to deliver a total of 104 activities, including workshops, launches, festival sessions and events tailored to the writing and wider community.

Together, we celebrated themes of queerness, human rights, disability pride, First Nations storytelling and eldership, engaging a broad and diverse audience.

Stories in All Spaces amplified the voices of local authors, extending their reach across both metropolitan and regional areas.

Activities included:

- Podcast
- Social media
- Blog posts
- Press releases
- Events
- Competitions
- Workshops
- Static displays
- Showcases
- New Norcia residency
- Speakers/facilitation
- Book launch
- York Festival.

Short story writers were supported through:

- York Festival Flash Fiction Competition, with 60 entries
- The Raine Square Short Story Dispenser, with 18 authors paid.

LOVE TO READ LOCAL

22,225
Social Media Interactions

17
Host Partners

Over
50%
of events were in
regional locations

185
Books Sold

52
Authors &
Facilitators
Engaged

Love to Read Local celebrated its 3rd year of programming funded by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund. The beloved program saw Writing WA connect writers and storytellers with their readers through events and competitions. The 2025 programming extended across a month.

A collaboration with Night Parrot Press resulted in 'The Little Journal: Romance'. The publication highlighted the work of 30 authors and was distributed among local bookstores, with 152 copies sold.

The unique opportunity of this program was our ability to 'cast a wide net', allowing us to connect with communities we hadn't before. Appreciative feedback included:

"The event was booked out, and our little library was crammed with forty people."

"I love meeting authors in person and having the opportunity to support them by buying their books!"



Emily Tsokos Purtill



Books in the Brewery Team



Kristy Nita Brown KSP Residency

Offerings included:

- Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' 'Presenting your way' panel spoke to the diversity of narrative styles and engagement.
- Children's Book Council Australia Comics Workshop amplified the unique storytelling through illustration.
- Residency at Katharine Susannah Prichard.
- BookTok competition offered digital engagement with 2,127 social media hits.
- Diverse genres represented, including historical fiction, romance, mystery/crime, memoir and creative non-fiction.
- Diverse settings, including writing centres, regional public libraries, retirement villages, State Library of Western Australia.

The Emerging Writers Program is a highly focused and successful development program that collaborates with writing centres and mentors to support 20 Emerging West Australian writers and poets in developing their manuscripts.

Continuing from 2024, the program was constellated into streams of poetry and prose, with each stream developing its own ecosystem and support network. The Emerging Writers program builds participants' long-term career sustainability, strengthens creative skills, and prepares manuscripts for publication. Activities were delivered at the State Library of WA and partner writers' centres and included workshops, mentoring and support.

EMERGING *Writers* PROGRAM

The program produced strong creative outcomes, including 16 completed or drafted manuscripts, publications in journals and anthologies, public readings, and competition successes. Participants also formed peer networks, joined writers' centres, and gained ongoing access to the WA literary community.

A livestream and pitch session with publishing experts further increased industry engagement.



Left to Right: Elle Vidovich, Emily McGuinness, Anna-Nicole Del Re, Elizabeth Lewis, Raphael Farmer, Soraya Acosta, David Harris, Michaela Ironwood, Alison Davis, Christine Della Vedova, Kristie Nicholson, Lucy Czerwiec, Brody Stevens, Angie Macleod, Nicole Roslon, Jenifer Hetherington, Kathleen Dzubieli, Beau Biddle

Congratulations to the Emerging Writer Graduates

Prose: Soraya Acosta, Emily McGuinness, Alison Davis, Michaela Ironwood, Anna-Nicole Del Re, Raphael Farmer, David Harris, Kristie Nicholson, Angie McLeod, Brody Stevens, Elle Vidovich.

Poetry: Vanessa Karas, Beau Biddle, Lucy Czerwiec, Christine Della Vedova, Jake Dennis, Jenny Hetherington, Elizabeth Lewis.

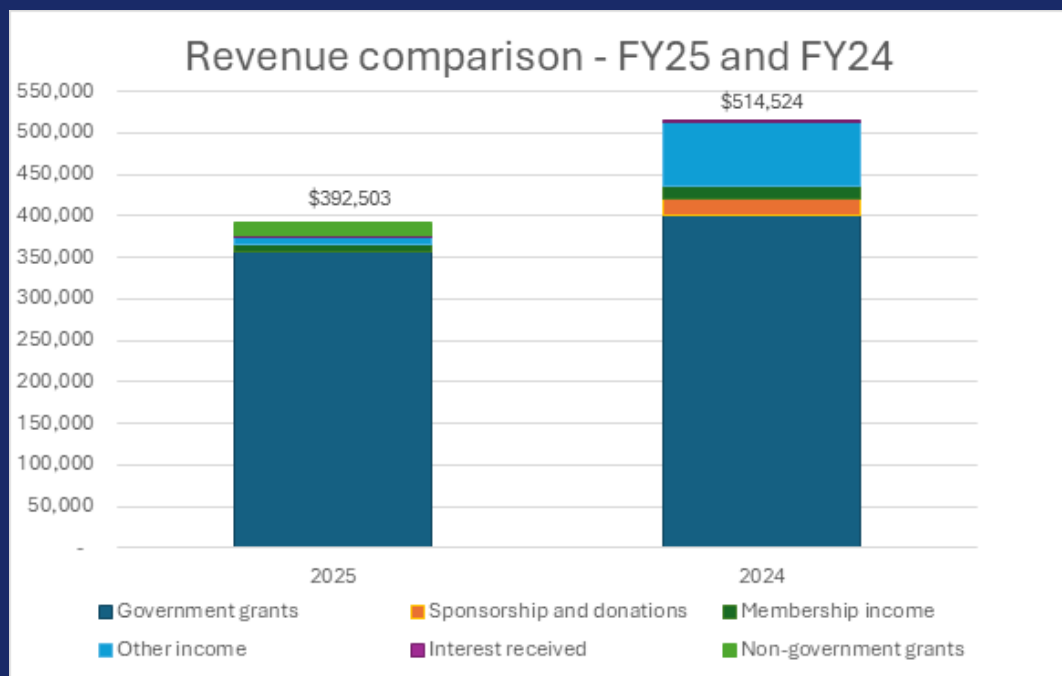
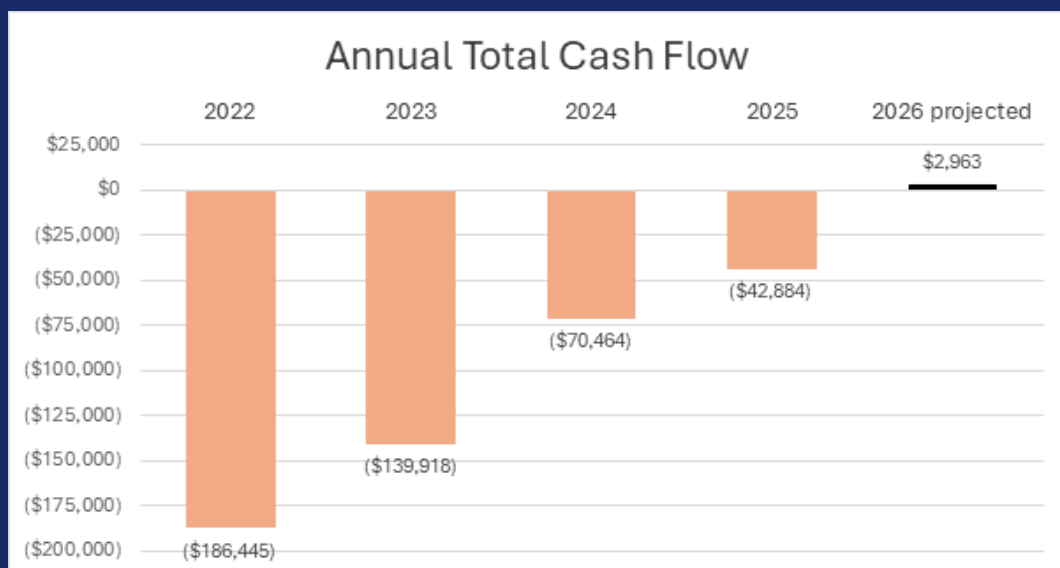
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Financial Overview for year ending 31st December 2025

Financial Year 2025 was a year of transition for Writing WA as we restructured the organisation after several years of deficits. The Board is pleased to report a surplus of \$68,165 for the year ending 31 December 2025.

Writing WA worked hard to ensure we delivered the activities and outcomes required by our grant funders that were already committed. Writing WA successfully acquitted all of its grant agreements, resulting in a net cash outflow of \$42,940 for the year.

2026 will see Writing WA continue to maintain tight controls on spending while we focus on engaging with our members and the sector to deliver our strategic goals. We will also be working to secure longer-term funding, which will position the organisation for a financially sustainable future. We anticipate a small but positive net cash flow and a surplus in 2026.



OUR PEOPLE

STAFF

Peta Wootton, CEO (From June 2025)
Georgie Lockyer, Office Administrator
(From October 2025)

CONSULTANTS & INTERNS

Tammie Rose, Digital Communications Intern
Amuktha Bhamidimaray, Historiography Project Intern
Rivka Ulman, Digital Communications Intern

PUBLIC FUND TRUSTEES

Rosalind O'Brien, Chairperson
Dennis Haskell AM
Sue Henderson

A SHOUT OUT TO THOSE WHO ENGAGED WITH OUR PROGRAMS

THE LITTLE JOURNAL CONTRIBUTORS

K T **Downs**, Jude **Bridge**, Emily **Smith**, Keturah **Mudhan**, Andrew R. **Cameron**, Louise **Burlinson**, Fionna **Cosgrove**, Philippa **Freegard**, Josh **Radswell**, Britt **McCarthy**, Casey **Mudler**, Alison **Middleton**, Michael **Burrows**, Samantha **Boswell**, Chole-Jean **Vincent**, Kim **Aikman**, Julia **Jarel**, Asha **Burnett**, Michelle **Cantrip**, Katie **Pope**, Dr Sarah **Rossetti**, Nikki **Wilson-Smith**, Nadia L. **King**, Kate **White**, Catherine **Geurds**, Avril **Mulligan**, Sofia **Stevanovic**, Melanie **Hobbs**, Laura **Motherway**, Jen **Rewell**, Paul **Croci**

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS (LTRL)

Northam Library, State Library of Western Australia, Geraldton Regional Library, Safety Bay Library, Bindoon Public Library, Rockingham Library, Roderick House, City of Melville Library, Mattie Furphy House, Kwinana Library, Night Parrot Press, Writers of the Coral Coast, Fellowship of Australian Writers WA, Children's Book Council of WA, Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre, Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, Rockingham Writers Centre.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Per Henningsgaard, Chair
Karen Whittle-Herbert, Deputy Chair
Shey Marque, Secretary
Anne Fairbanks, Treasurer
Alison Davis, Director
Rachel Bin-Salleh, Director

OUR PARTNERS

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Department of
Creative Industries,
Tourism and Sport



PARTICIPATING AUTHORS (LTRL)

Deb **Jordan**, Ruth **McIver**, Alexander **Thorpe**, Meg **McKinlay**, Kitty **Black**, Peter **Cheong**, Sean **Avery**, Aśka, Laura **Keenan**, Sue **Sacchero**, Louise **Wolhuter**, Shaeden **Berry**, Norman **Jorgensen**, Karleah **Olson**, Kelly **Canby**, Kristy Nita **Brown**, Katy **Kell**, Madeline **Te Whiu**, Emily **Tsokos Purtill**, Toby **Stephenson**, Ruth **McIver**.

OUR COLLABORATING WRITING CENTRES

Peter Cowan Writers Centre, Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers Centre, Out of the Asylum, WA Poets Inc, Fellowship of Australian Writers WA

NATIONAL WRITING CENTRE NETWORK

Right to left front: Lori-Jay Ellis: Queensland Writers Centre, Sophie Groom: Writing NSW, Katy Mutton: Marion (ACT), Jill Brown: Writers Victoria, Peta Wootton: Writing WA

Right to left back row: SezzaiJai Sykes: NT Writers Centre, Claire Hicks: Writers SA, Cathy Limb: TasWriters

