



2021 Annual Report



Image: Christmas party Disapora panel & WQ contributors



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Stanley Street, South Brisbane



CEO Report

After the adversity and resilience of 2020, I was not at all surprised to see the Queensland Writers Centre community continuing, in 2021, to adapt and persist with a fervour I'm sure few of us realised we had. Despite continued lockdowns we managed a successful GenreCon, an in-person Adaptable market day at the Gold Coast Film Festival and set a record number of authors on their way to publication with Publishable. It is incredibly rewarding to see our community of writers being so actively involved with their craft.

Equally rewarding has been the influx of new members as people learn more about the work we are doing, both for writers and the wider community, and renew their trust in us to deliver programs and pathways that suit their needs and interests. As always, we are thankful to the many experienced writers, publishers, agents and other creative professionals we engage with to provide these services. We continue to see diverse representation in our members and a strong contingency from regional areas and around the country. Seeing our Adaptable authors flying in from interstate was particularly joyous this year.

2021 has shown us that the future, whilst never certain, is better enjoyed while following our passions with the support of our community. We also welcome the certainty provided through the ongoing support of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. Four-year funding from 2022-2025 is a testament to the necessity of writing and literature in our community.

I look forward to leading Queensland Writers Centre into 2022 and building our ability to support storytelling and the Arts in new and innovative ways.

Lori-Jay Ellis
CEO
Queensland Writers Centre



Chair Report

I was proud to be Chair of Queensland Writers Centre throughout another tumultuous year. In the face of this 'new world' of snap lockdowns, I witnessed Queensland Writers Centre meet milestones, support members, develop and elevate writers, and originate opportunities for writers.

It was a privilege to work alongside the ever-inspiring presence of the Chief Executive Officer Lori-Jay Ellis. Your creativity and unfailing optimism ensure Queensland Writers Centre continues to soar.

Thank you to the dream team of Queensland Writers Centre staff, interns and volunteers. Your passion and buoyancy were unwavering throughout the peaks and troughs of 2021, and Queensland Writers Centre continues to thrive due to your efforts.

Heartfelt thanks go to our government partners and funding bodies for their generous support of our organisation. Your continued belief in, and support of, us enables us to continue supporting writers. Special thanks also go to the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and for our continuing long-term relationship with the State Library of Queensland.

The strengthening of our networks across the state has allowed us to remain relevant and deliver regionally in a tough year.

Your commitment to our organisation in 2021 was greatly appreciated.

I warmly thank my fellow Management Committee members for their steady and insightful governance: Lara Cain-Gray (Vice Chair), Kim Douglas (Secretary), Mary McWeeney (Treasurer), Jemma Pollari, Carolyn Martinez, Col Hester, Peter Long, and Stephen Torre.

Finally, I am so grateful for you, the members of Queensland Writers Centre. You continue to pursue your passion in the face of adversity. You continue to produce creative works enriching our lives and expanding our horizons. Queensland Writers Centre is honoured to nurture, support, and celebrate you.

May you continue to thrive.

Kym Hausmann
Chair
Queensland Writers Centre
Management Committee



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 a place for many voices to be heard and stories to be told

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.

 **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.



Image: 2021 Quills Day celebrations. Attended by Matt Foley, Kym Hausmann, Kevin Gillespie, Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Andrea Baldwin, Leanne Dodd, Sandra Makaresz, Lori-Jay Ellis (CEO), John Orr and Jemma Pollari.

Strategic Goals

NURTURE

To nurture the potential of writers at all levels of experience by developing opportunities for writers and arts workers within the writing community.

RESILIENCE

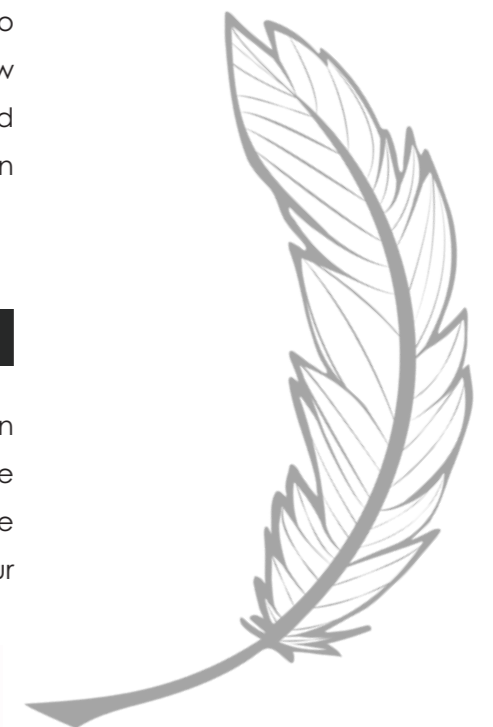
To engage with industry to promote writers, create new pathways to success and broaden access to writing as an inclusive and diverse activity.

CELEBRATE

To celebrate and showcase Queensland stories, storytellers and writing communities, while strengthening Queensland communities through writing.

ENGAGE

To continue to build on organisational resilience through improved governance and the broadening of our regional base.



A Year in Numbers

Queensland Writers Centre has seen strong growth across many facets of the organisation, reaching and providing services to more writers across Queensland and nationally - all despite the continued trying circumstances of another year impacted by COVID-19. Unprecedented growth in Youth Membership has been one of our strongest achievements through the year.



Queensland Writers Centre's membership base grew by more than 22% in 2021. We also saw huge growth in our youth demographic with more than a quadrupling of new Youth Memberships.



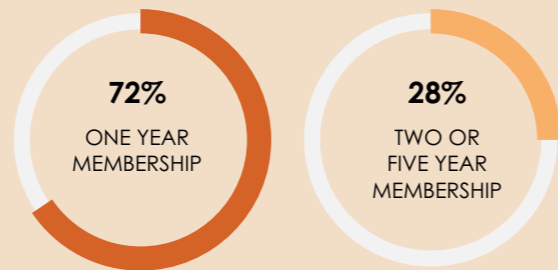
1300+
NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

More than 1300 writers took out a Queensland Writers Centre membership, or renewed their membership with us in 2021.



A diversity of writers from all backgrounds, beginners to established, took up development opportunities at Queensland Writers Centre in 2021, including workshops, services, Writing Friday, and our ...able programs.

Our members are committing to support Queensland Writers Centre's mission by taking out long term memberships.



29.45%

INCREASE IN WRITER'S SERVICES DELIVERED

Building on a strong year in 2020, and with a refresh of our offering of writer's services, 2021 saw an increase of nearly 30% in services delivered (including consults, full mentorships, manuscript assessments and Writer's Surgeries) all providing one-on-one opportunities for writers to discuss and elevate their work – and employing professional writers.

Creative Recovery Pt.2

The year began with positivity and an eagerness to get out and be part of the community. Our first pop-up event for the year quickly sold out and we thought we were on our way. But things were definitely not back to normal. Despite this, our staff and many GenreCon fans rallied together to experience a fantastic conference online. Queensland Writers Centre's ability to run hybrid events and pivot on short notice has been essential to our creative recovery.

This year, the Management Committee finalised the new strategic plan for 2022-2025 and consolidated our creative direction. In response, we began work on a new anthology to feature the work of emerging writers and invited an unprecedented number of writers into our community through residencies, feedback consults, regional workshops and more.

Our incredibly successful Telling Our Stories To The World program was taken to a new regional audience in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Science, and the Local Government Authority of Queensland. Our ability to move from community writing projects in regional and remote areas of the state to providing residencies, opportunities and employment to emerging and established writers is the key to our creative recovery – and the reason Queensland Writers Centre remains the state's peak body for writers and writing.



Socially distanced Writing Friday at Helensvale.

Regional Engagement

Our members are all over Queensland, with over 40% of our membership residing outside the Brisbane area. Engaging with these writers and providing support is at the core of our mission and is key to achieving our strategic goals – even when they can be difficult to physically reach.

Telling Our Stories To The World (TOSTTW) is a 2021 partnership between Queensland Writers Centre, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), and the Department of Environment and Science (DES). By encouraging individuals and communities to 'tell their own stories' through a range of creative media and opportunities, the project aims to empower participants, strengthen a range of existing skills, and build resilience.

As one of our largest projects, and in its second iteration in 2021, the TOSTTW project has allowed us to deliver Queensland Writers Centre programs to rural and remote communities all across the state and build relationships that will be sustained beyond the life of the project, continuing our commitment to regional writers.

Three regional author tours over the course of the year brought workshops and writing sessions to dozens of highly remote and regional locations, visiting libraries, community centres, and schools.

Sessions focused on inspiring new voices, educating writers, as well as facilitating important discussions about climate adaptation and community resilience. Locations included Camooweal, Dalby, Cloncurry, Julia Creek, Mt Isa, Cairns and Malanda, and Normanton among many others.

As part of the schools tour, themed postcards with writing prompts centred around ideas of climate adaptation were used to encourage students to respond with their own perspectives from their home towns. These messages will be shared with local schools in Brisbane beginning a dialogue and promoting awareness of the lived experiences, joys and hardships of life in remote Queensland communities.

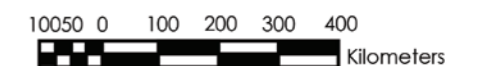
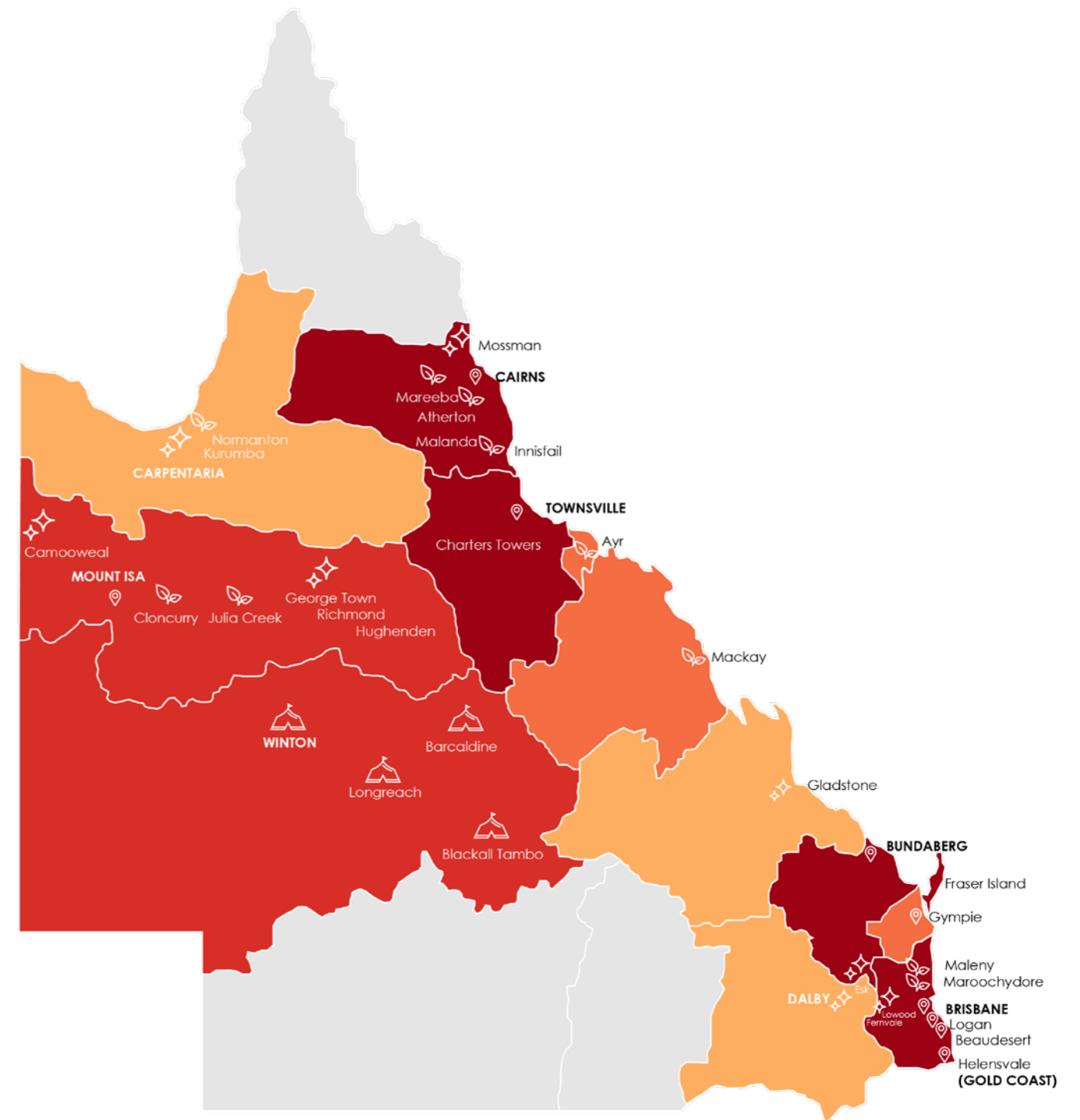
A Facebook community has been established for regional writers which allows for discussion, connection, and the sharing of stories between writers who may be isolated not just by distance but also in their passion and love for writing.

Queensland Writers Centre's Program of Events held in Brisbane is now almost entirely accessible via online live streams.

Through this initiative we are seeing a strong increase in regional participation.

In 2021, it also allowed people who were COVID-19 affected to continue to engage with the Centre.

Queensland Writers Centre also contributed support and partnered with state-wide festivals including Capricorn Coast Writers Festival, Cairns' Tent Talks event, Lines in the Sand festival, and Words Out West.



Membership

Queensland Writers Centre's members are the life blood of our organisation, and 2021 was a year of significant growth - a vote of confidence from the Queensland writing community in trying times.

New membership bundles, made available to applicants to our ...able development programs - and aiming to keep participants engaged with the organisation - were significant factors in this growth.

We have worked hard to develop a multiyear approach to engagement with our members, to ensure they continue to find value in their membership. This includes working with our staff to answer questions, taking advantage of discounted workshops and writer's services, through to publication opportunities and residencies.

The evolution of our membership packs, sent out weekly to all new and renewing members, includes print copies of WQ magazines, checklists for making the most of Queensland Writers Centre membership, vouchers, program information, membership cards and more. We recognise the importance of providing points of communication in a time of isolation and limited interactions.

We began negotiations with Varuna: The National Writers' House in 2021 to secure Queensland Writers Centre Fellowships from 2022. This prestigious opportunity is exclusively for Queensland Writers Centre members and includes two fellowships to cater for both underrepresented and established authors.

Our long-standing agreement with the National Writers Centre Network to provide reciprocal membership benefits with other state writers centres saw increased interest and utilisation by writers, especially with so much of our program and services available nationally.

One of the most encouraging signs of the value of membership continues to be the volume of member milestones we receive. From competition wins and authors being published for the first time, to established authors receiving major awards. Our members are well represented in the Australian writing and publishing industry at large and many writers attribute their wins to work completed at the Centre or elevated through our programs and services.

FEATURED PHOTOS

1. Member Cheryl Sullivan
2. Tutor Ally Blake
3. Member David Shield
4. Flinthart Resident Jake Corvus
5. Fishbowl Resident Kat Wasiel



"...as a member of a writing community, I believe respect and consideration for other members of this community are absolutely essential. They underpin the generosity, helpfulness and support we need to show one another if we're going to strengthen and grow the culture of writing and story-making in Queensland."

Andrea Baldwin



Dr Andrea Baldwin

Andrea Baldwin is one of Queensland Writers Centre's strongest supporters and a highly active member. Andrea contributed her services as a Management Committee member for a number of years and now continues to be a critical friend to many organisations by finding ways to allow writers and writing to play active roles in the community.

A passionate supporter of regional writers, and working between both arts and health sectors, Andrea was awarded the 2021 Johnno award recognising outstanding contribution to the Queensland writing community.



Dr June Perkins

Long-time member Dr June Perkins is an author, poetry advocate, educator, and director of gumbootspearlz press. June defines herself as a world citizen in the diaspora ocean whilst looking outwards from Brisbane - making her an excellent candidate for our inaugural WQ guest editor role. June was commissioned to provide a collection of eight articles for the Diaspora issue. The resultant collaboration exceeded our expectations and has given us the confidence to continue with this format. June went beyond her remit, creating an engaging panel discussion in December featuring herself and contributors Dimity Powell and Sharon Orapeleng in conversation about their experiences of diaspora.

Competitions ...able suite

Adaptable | Publishable | Printable | Scriptable

Queensland Writers Centre's response to elevating writing was to create a suite of development programs which offer excellent value for money as well as outstanding skill development, the ...able suite. They have proved to be among our most popular offerings. Primarily, the programs focus on promoting individual's creative works (including in new spheres such as screen rights), building skills for a career as a writer and the discovery of new and emerging talent.

Adaptable, now in its 4th year, places 25 shortlisted authors - both published and unpublished - in front of film industry professionals to pitch their novels to screen producers. A major networking opportunity for

all involved, this event now takes place annually at Gold Coast Film Festival.

Publishable, a re-envisioning of the Queensland Writers Centre/Hachette Manuscript Development program takes a longlist of 25 writers, providing them with consults with staff to refine their manuscripts. A further 10 writers are trained on pitching, synopsis development and eventually present their redeveloped work to major publishing houses and industry partners.

Scriptable selects 5 scriptwriters, matching them with film industry professionals for long-form mentorship, while Printable takes through a larger class focusing on author branding and tackling the business side of writing.

Across the entire ...able suite, we ensure every entrant has the opportunity for a high value workshop aimed at building skills, and the opportunity to receive reader feedback. At the core of the programs is the commitment to unpublished, emerging and often otherwise unrecognised talent.

The ...able suite is a positive pathway to improving a writers work as well as skills they can take with them to the next projects.



Ricki-Lee Arnold

Publishable Shortlist 2020

"The Publishable program was everything I needed at that moment in time. We were treated to workshops and seminars and given feedback from anonymous readers. For me, it was the first time my work was exposed to beta readers who weren't my loved ones and I found it extremely insightful. The mentorship was without a doubt the highlight of the program and it gave me so much more confidence in my little book.

When I finished the program, I took the advice from my mentor, the reader feedback and from my pitch to an agent, to put the finishing touches on my manuscript.

The First Tackle will be released March 2022 with Wombat Books and I am forever grateful to Queensland Writers Centre and Wombat Books for giving me a chance. "



Adaptable 2021 pitch event and networking at Gold Coast Film Festival

Program of Events

Queensland Writers Centre's Program of Events continues to be a cornerstone of our offering for writers, employing professional writers and industry experts to share their experience and wisdom with our members, providing inspiration, guidance and opportunities for creative development. Key focusses include developing skills in craft, career sustainability and reader engagement.

Our early (pre-pandemic) innovation in live streaming and hybrid workshops gave us a solid platform for our Program to succeed against the trying circumstances of yet another year impacted and disrupted by the effects of COVID-19.

Established networks with local councils and libraries across the state allowed us to step up and support them with access to our live streams whilst their in-person program was impacted.

We continue to improve the quality of experience for remote learning.

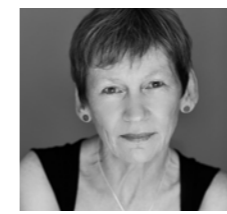
Highlights from our 2021 program included workshops on perennial favourite topics such as memoir and life writing (Sara El Sayed), short stories (Amanda O'Callaghan), freelance writing (Christine Jackman) and literary fiction (Emily Bitto). Building on this strong base, we were able to deliver innovative and left-of-centre workshops including world building & map making (Kathleen Jennings), writing for comics & graphic novels (Paul Mason), and storytelling for climate fiction (Amanda Niehaus).

Our flagship program, Year of the Novel, again saw the formation of a strong group of writers who continue to meet, discuss and collaborate long after their course completed. In 2021 we saw many and varied success stories from Queensland Writers Centre workshop alumni (both participants and presenters), including publications, competition wins, fellowships and more.

Program Highlights



J.P.
POMARE



KRISTINA
OLSSON



NATASHA
LESTER



KIM
WILKINS



CHRISTINE
JACKMAN



AMANDA
O'CALLAGHAN



PAUL
MASON



KATHLEEN
JENNINGS



EMILY
BITTO



CARMEN
LEIGH KEATES



AMANDA
NIEHAUS



NICK
EARLS



LAURA
ELVERY



SHELLEY
DAVIDOW



ANTHONY
MULLINS

Writer's Services

Writer's Services are an increasingly important part of the work Queensland Writers Centre has done for 30 years. They focus on elevating work and finding pathways for writers to achieve their personal writing goals, whatever they may be.

Across the year, Queensland Writers Centre delivered record numbers of services, including hundreds of consults, hours of mentorships, dozens of in-depth manuscript assessments and editing services.

This growth has allowed us to significantly increase the number of writers and industry experts we were able to employ in 2021; an important income stream for many.

Our writers have a diverse range of writing goals, ranging from traditional or self-publication, personal and family memoir projects, to entering competitions or applying for opportunities, writing for self-care, or even simply finding someone who will listen and care about their work. Our services cater to these highly individual needs, providing the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with an experienced writer or professional to focus solely on the work of a writer, and achieving its potential.

With consults available as an add-on to ... able program applications – we provide both a rare opportunity for writers to receive reader feedback on their competition entry manuscripts and a wholistic integration with our services that

allow us to better understand and meet the needs of individual writers, delivering the most relevant and useful recommendations.

We have come to know and built longstanding relationships with so many fascinating and committed writers through these programs, with many more going on to elevate their work further with manuscript assessments, mentorships and editing services.

In 2021 we continued to support the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by supplying professional writers, often dual qualified in creative arts and health, for longform mentorships supporting writers with disability and special needs.

Through our Fellowship and Access Fund, Queensland Writers Centre subsidised the cost of manuscript development services for several of our members, including minority stories from migrant, neurodiverse and financially disadvantaged voices.

Kelly Norman

Manuscript Assessment Recipient

The Manuscript Assessment program has provided me with the incredible opportunity to work with children's author Samantha Wheeler.

Since beginning the program, I have developed a much deeper understanding of the writing industry, as well as receiving invaluable advice when it comes to editing, publishing and the concept of "where to from here". Throughout the entire process I felt supported, encouraged, and inspired to move forward and reach my potential. For the first time in my life, I truly believe that my dream of becoming a published author is entirely possible.

I would wholeheartedly encourage any aspiring authors out there to consider this program as a positive step forward in developing their manuscripts. I am certain that the knowledge that I have gained in this short amount of time would have ordinarily taken years to develop.



Image: Mentor Samantha Wheeler with member Kelly Norman

"Throughout the entire process I felt supported, encouraged, and inspired to move forward and reach my potential. "

Kelly Norman



Image: Mentor Elena Volkova with member Kylie Henry

Residencies

Queensland Writers Centre residencies provided a space to write as well as one-on-one mentorship with industry professionals to 14 writers in 2021. These talented and dedicated residents produced work across a wide range of genres and formats, including crime, science fiction, fantasy, women's fiction, YA, middle grade, non-fiction and memoir.

Residents built relationships with Queensland Writers Centre staff, interns and volunteers, who provided feedback on their work while also discussing writing practice and craft. It was pleasing to see residents reaching their writing goals, with many completing an entire novel-length manuscript during their 10 weeks.

First established in 2020 and named in honour of the late Aiki Flinthart, The Flinthart is another important component of Queensland Writers Centre's residency offerings.

Featuring a stipend for residents funded by sales of Aiki's generous donations, the Flinthart is a significant opportunity to support writers working in the space of self and independent publishing - a route championed by Aiki.

Our inaugural Flinthart resident Jake Corvus completed his residency in 2021, working on a contemporary queer romance. The second Flinthart residency was awarded to Pamela Jeffs. With the guidance of her mentor, Pamela completed a YA fantasy novella manuscript during her residency and is now preparing to publish under her own publishing label in 2022.



Jake Corvus

FLINTHART | 7 DEC - 26 FEB

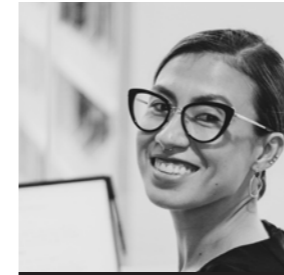
Jake Corvus is a prolific writer living on the Sunshine Coast, in Australia. While in his mid-thirties, he is often mistaken for a teenager. He writes sci-fi and fantasy, with a queer and inclusive bent. He watches too many horror movies to have any self-respect, and lives with an array of rescue animals, including shrimp, cats, dogs, guinea pigs and his sons.



Sara El Sayed

FISHBOWL | 25 FEB - 30 APR

Sara El Sayed was born in Alexandria, Egypt. She has a Master of Fine Arts and works at Queensland University of Technology. Her work features in the anthologies Growing Up African in Australia and Arab, Australian, Other, among other places. She is a recipient of a Queensland Writers Fellowship and was a finalist for the 2020 Queensland Premier's Young Writers and Publishers Award. Her memoir, Muddy People (Black Inc), is her first book.



KATHERINE WASIEL

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 16 NOV - 4 FEB



LARA CAIN GRAY

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 4 JAN - 12 MAR



COURTNEY HERCUS

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 1 FEB - 9 APR



ANDREW MCKAYSMTIH

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 12 MAR - 23 APR



SARAH PRAGNELL

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 12 MAR - 21 MAY



DAVID SHIELD

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 26 MAR - 11 JUN



PENELOPE TEASDALE

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 17 MAY - 23 JUL



CONNOR HARVEY

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 24 MAY - 24 SEP



LEE BREEZE

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 26 JUL - 8 OCT



PAMELA JEFFS

RESIDENCY : FLINTHART
DATES: 10 AUG - 14 OCT



ABDIMALIK ADEN

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 27 SEPT - 10 DEC



BARRY MCEARLEAN

RESIDENCY : FISHBOWL
DATES: 18 OCT - 21 JAN

Youth Writing

Youth Writing Saturdays

As part of our strategic plan initiative to develop opportunities for young writers and build our underdeveloped youth demographic, the monthly workshop program Youth Writing Saturday launched in 2021.

Queensland Writers Centre took a considered approach to hold weekend sessions with two separate age groups (Grades 7-9 & 10-12 respectively), each focusing on craft and tailored to the interests of each group. Importantly, the sessions provide time, space and an encouraging environment to write and learn.

With many returning participants, the program was a major contributing factor to the exponential growth in new Youth Memberships, which we hope will contribute to the sustainability of the program and the Centre itself as a home for new and young voices.



Image: A monthly Youth Writing Saturdays event



Image: Youth writing workshop for Lowood High School - How to Write a Villain with Donita Bundy.



Brisbane Children's Writers Festival

The success of our youth program led us to develop and launch the inaugural Brisbane Children's Writers Festival, in collaboration with State Library of Queensland and sponsor Essential Screen Skills.

A successful single-day event in late 2021 brought together a conference room full of eager young writers, celebrating storytelling and exploring topics of poetry, genre fiction, playwriting and practical activities. An engaging lineup of special guest presenters included authors Tess Rowley and Claire Christian, and Lin Li Wan from Voiceworks magazine.

Partnerships developed in support of the initiative included Ruckus Youth, longstanding partner Express Media, Upbeat Arts and Somerset Storyfest, which Queensland Writers Centre looks forward to building upon to support youth writers.

WQ Magazine

WQ continues to evolve, offering writing-related stories on various aspects of craft and storytelling as well as reflections on Queensland's writing community. The magazine has been a major asset in creating publication opportunities that allow us to fulfil the values stated in our strategic plan.

The writers and illustrators featured in WQ are rich in diversity, especially through special issues such as WQ 274 - Pride. Accessibility and Inclusivity can be seen in our ability to create the WQ 271 cover using photography by blind and deaf Mackay artist, Brenden Borellini. We continue to work collaboratively and feature new ideas including videogame storytelling, sharing stories on writing during the pandemic and updating readers on everything from regional writers' festivals to changes at the Centre.

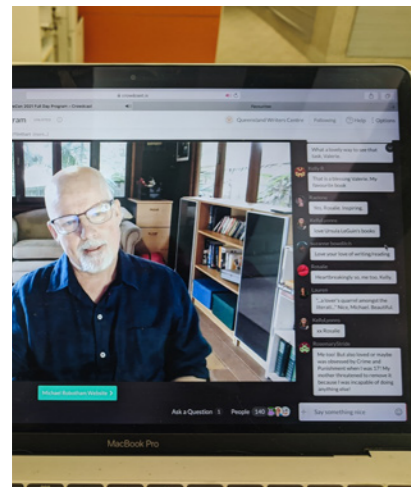
Issue 273 featured a beautiful cover by the award-winning illustrator and writer, Kathleen Jennings. Her images attracted much attention online. Members were then keen to attend Kathleen's Map Making and World Building workshop at the Centre.

The WQ year concluded with the Diaspora panel event led by Dr June Perkins, guest editor of WQ 275, and two of her commissioned writers, Dimity Powell and Sharon Orapeleng, discussing the challenges and gifts of diaspora. It was a great success and the Centre plans to hold more WQ associated events in future.



GenreCon is Australia's largest conference for genre writers, delivering a packed schedule every year featuring leading national and international voices in genre fiction and publishing.

Key Projects



GenreCon 2021 | A Snapshot of Genre

In 2021, the conference theme was A Snapshot of Genre. The one-day online event featured Michael Robotham as keynote speaker, and authors including Ellie Marney, Yassmin Abdel-Magied and Kate McCaffrey, with a variety of sessions and workshops on the program.

This event is loved for its opportunities for networking and sharing ideas. With that in mind, the GenreCon team worked hard to ensure that attendees still found connection and inspiration through events such as our pre-conference meet-up, scavenger hunt, and online chat features.

A number of new sponsors and partners supported the conference especially through the Mystery Box conference packs, which were well loved by attendees. Planning for GenreCon 2022 has already begun and we are working to secure significant talent for a larger scale GenreCon event in February 2022.



Right Left Write Anthology

Our monthly writing competition has been running for two years and continues to attract 500-word entries from members and non-members. Each month, winning stories are posted on our website and featured in Pen & Pixel to be read by over 6000 subscribers.

This year we decided the large body of work created by our writing community offered an excellent opportunity for publication and the Right Left Write anthology was created. The anthology featured writers contributing via our travelling writer's studio and was funded through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.



Short story writer Amanda O'Callaghan contributed an inspiring introduction to the anthology, describing short stories as the 'workaholics of the literary world' – we're so glad we could highlight some of them here.



Writing Friday

Writing Friday is a Queensland Writers Centre initiative facilitating weekly writing groups in local libraries and community centres across Queensland, with structured sessions following the Pomodoro technique to encourage regularity, productivity and accountability in each member's writing practice.

As a program centred around in-person connection, Writing Friday was one of our most heavily impacted programs by COVID-19. But with well-established networks and contacts, 2021 was a year of regrowth as we worked to support volunteers and ambassadors reconvening their groups and getting back to the business of regular writing.



Queensland Writers Centre sees Writing Friday as an important part of the process of recovery for local communities of writers across the state.



Writer's Marketplace

The Australian Writer's Marketplace relaunched successfully in an online format in 2021 to the delight of many past subscribers and devotees.

The Writer's Marketplace provides a strong overview of the Australian publishing industry and its everchanging landscape. Contained within the directories is a myriad of diverse competitions and publication opportunities, ranging from the niche to the major, with listings hand-curated, independently verified and kept up to date by the team to be of most benefit to subscribers.


It continues to be an invaluable internal resource for the Queensland Writers Centre's team, as we strive to find and promote opportunities relevant and personalised for each of our members.

Auditor's Report

Queensland Writers Centre values fiscal accountability, with a focus on cost base responsibility and innovative projects.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2021 presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2021, and of its financial performance for

the year then 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).

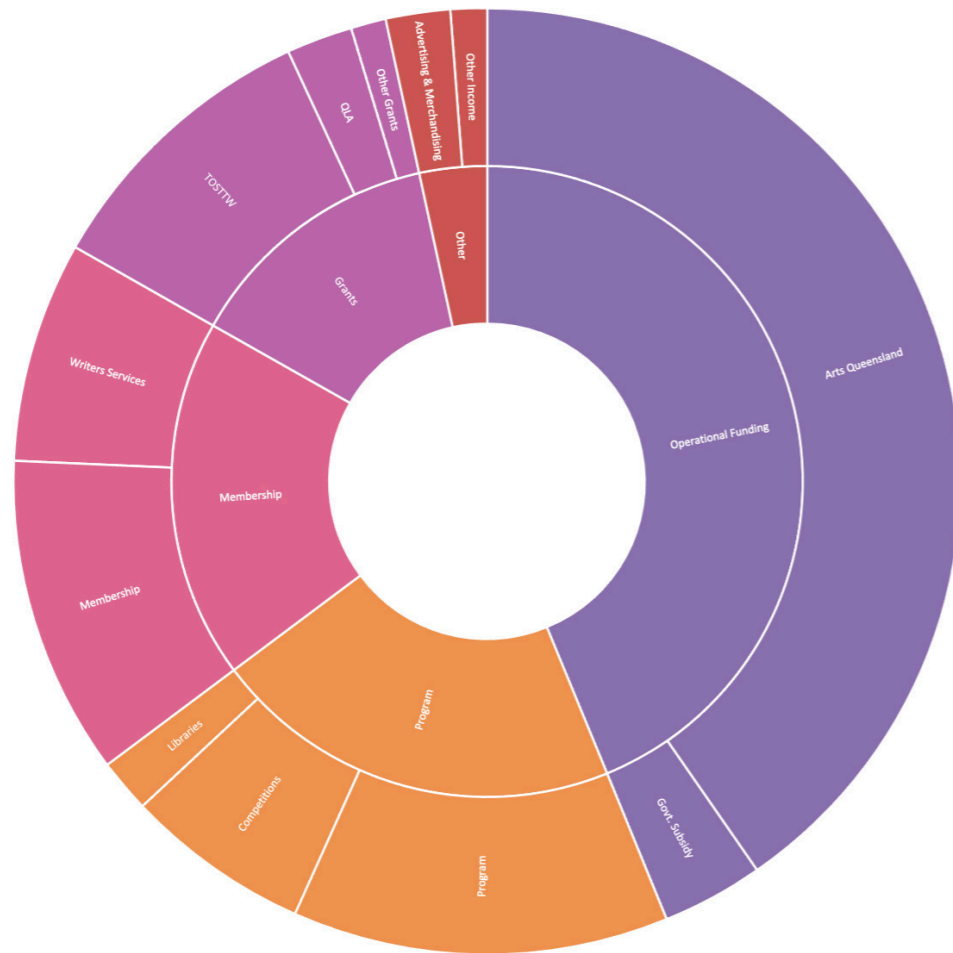

 James Kenward (Registered Company Auditor 441040)
 SAAS Audit Pty Ltd
 138 Juliette Street
 Greenslopes QLD 4120
 Dated: 23/3/2022

INCOME

Graph Key

QLA: Queensland Literary Awards

TOSTTW: Telling Our Stories To The World



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 2021.

2021 has seen increased project and programming delivery, emerging from the restrictions of COVID lockdowns to report an income of \$964,741 (2020: \$851,805). Competition offerings and membership services have been well received by the writing community, and Queensland Writers Centre continues to benefit from operational support funding through Arts Queensland.

Reported expenses of \$922,222 (2020: \$739,058) reflect the increased activity levels in 2021. The Fellowship and Access Fund created last year to support the participation of members experiencing hardship has been increased by \$5,000, and a provision of \$30,000 has been set aside to establish the prestigious Varuna Residency.

The net result is a surplus of \$42,520 (2020: \$112,746) delivered while transitioning from a period of significant government subsidy in 2020

to a more normal operating environment in 2021.

The Balance Sheet reports total assets of \$467,520 (2020: \$378,888), total liabilities of \$230,800 (2020: \$184,688) and total net assets of \$236,720 (2020: \$194,199).

Overall, Queensland Writers Centre is in a strong and sustainable financial position moving into the first year of a new 4-year partnership with Arts Queensland.

Mary McWeeny
 Treasurer

EXPENDITURE

Graph Key

WQ: Writers Queensland Magazine



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 2021.

RECOGNITION

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



TENANT PARTNERS



FESTIVAL PARTNERS



UNIVERSITIES



INDUSTRY PARTNERS



LIBRARIES & COUNCILS



NATIONAL WRITERS CENTRE NETWORK



Thank You

Thanks also to the hard-working Queensland Writers Centre staff, volunteers and interns, without whom none of this would have been possible. Our Management Committee, made up of Queensland Writers Centre members, who freely give their time and energy have ensured our continual success in 2021 and we will look forward to this relationship in 2022.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair | Kym Hausmann
Vice Chair | Lara Cain Gray
Treasurer | Mary McWeeney
Secretary | Kim Douglas
Member | Colin Hester
Member | Peter Long
Member | Carolyn Martinez
Member | Jemma Pollari
Member | Stephen Torre

Vice Chair | Ann Wilson
Secretary | Judy Gregory
Member | Sandra Makaresz
Member | Sarah Thornton
Member | Angela Samut
Member | Andrea Brosnan

STAFF

CEO | Lori-Jay Ellis
Editor | Sandra Makaresz
Program Manager | Callum McDonald
Graphics Officer | Aleisha Yu
Graphics Officer | Kelsey Williams
Livestream Officer | Ashlinn Theroux
Marketing Officer | Charlie Hester
Operations Officer | Chris Grace
Project Officer | Aimee Cheung
Project Officer | Craig Cauchi
Project Officer | Emma Mitchell
Project Officer | Georgia Ward
Project Officer | Sebastian Williams
Project Officer | Sophie Bafekr
Project Officer | Sophie Barlow

WRITING FRIDAY AMBASSADORS

Belinda Marsden-Smedley
Belinda Topan
Connor Harvey
Erin Robertson
Jen Fairless
Jill Cross
Judy Wolling
Kate Kelson
Leigh Garrahy
Rhiannon Elton
Rhonda Dixon

INTERNS

Alex Barbera
Bronte Mark
Cassey Harding
Charlotte Hauser
Chelsea Cartledge
Chris Grace
Dimitri Cassimatis
Emma Mitchell
Ezra Blazak
Jes Schefe
Katherine Dahler
Kelsey Williams
Konstanz Muller Hering
Lazar Gagic
Leo Porter
Madison Blissett de Weger
Matthew Petralia
Mitch Moody
Rachel Hall
Seanna Burnett
Shania Sixsmith
Shaun Kickbusch
Vanessa Popescu
Willow Ward

REGIONAL WRITERS REFERENCE GROUP

BUNDABERG | Sandy Curtis
SUNSHINE COAST | Chris Cantor
MACKAY | Paul Van der Loos
TOOWOOMBA | Emma McTaggart
CAIRNS | Eve Stafford
CAPRICORN COAST | Nicky Way

VOLUNTEERS

Aidan Demmers
Alice Ucas
Amaliah Grace
Amara Motala
Ashlinn Theroux
Cody Hargreaves
Connor Harvey
David Shield
Hayley Askew
Kyle Clark
Kyle Cunningham
Lucinda Leyshon
Mikala Smee
Nadine Schubert
Olivia Ganzenmuller
Sophie Barlow
Stacey Tyler
Tiana Lee Collins



ANNUAL REPORT 2021