

Annual General Meeting 2020 Proxy Voting Form

The Annual General Meeting of Writers Victoria Incorporated (ABN 18 268 487 576) for the 2019 Calendar Year will be held on **Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 6pm** (at the Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne).

If you wish to appoint a proxy, please fill in and return this form to:

Email: to members@writersvictoria.org.au (preferred)

Post: Writers Victoria, Level 3, the Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000

so that it is received no later than **6pm on Tuesday 24 March 2020**.

I, _____ [print name]
of _____ [print address]
being a financial member of Writers Victoria Inc., hereby appoint [select option (1) or (2) of the following]:

(1) _____
[print name and address], being a financial member of Writers Victoria Inc;

OR
(2) the Chairperson of the Committee of Management of Writers Victoria Inc;
as my proxy, to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held on Wednesday 25 March 2020 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

My proxy is authorised to vote as follows (see over the page):

1. Election of Committee of Management

Select option (a) or (b) of the following.

(a) in favour of [select three (3) nominees]:

- BRAZ, Charnie
- FENNESSY, Kit
- GOODMAN, Williams
- HILL, Peter
- KEESE, Ian
- KIRKMAN, Gemma
- MULLINS, Sharon
- NAGHAVI, Yasmin
- ORCHARD, Sonia
- RAYMOND, Josh
- SEKULOV, Victor
- SHAW, Megan
- SHEPHERD, Mitchell
- SLESS, Justine

OR

(b) at his/her/their own discretion for three (3) nominees.

Please note: you must vote for **three (3) nominees**. Selecting more or fewer than three (3) nominees will make this ballot form invalid.

2. Special Resolution

There will be a Special Resolution proposed at the Annual General Meeting regarding amendments to the Writers Victoria Rules of Association.

Select option (a) or (b) of the following.

(a) That the proposed amendments to the Writers Victoria Rules of Association be accepted.

- YES
- NO

OR

(b) vote on the resolution at his/her/their own discretion.

BRAZ, Charnie

Biography:

- BA, University of Queensland, 2001
- Golden Key International Honour Society member
- MBA, University of Queensland, 2017
- Qualified journalist and recipient of John Avieson Memorial Prize
- Past member of Public Relations Institute of Australia
- 20+ years in professional communications, specialising in issues management and public affairs

Statement:

I am an ex-journalist and have managed communications strategy at the highest levels for some leading Australian and international companies and government departments. These include Suncorp, Royal Australian Air Force, Australian Attorney-General's Department, Microsoft, and Flight Centre. I have international diplomatic experience from a posting to the Australian Embassy in Washington DC and have been an advisor in Federal Parliament. In 2019, I completed Faber Academy with Allen and Unwin, which gave me valuable insight into writing and publishing from my teachers and mentors, Sophie Cunningham and Emily Bitto. Recently, I resigned from my position in management with Suncorp to commit to writing full time. I have extensive strategic business and communications acumen to bring to Writers Victoria.

FENNESSY, Kit

Biography:

Kit Fennessy is the published author of four books, a professional editor and copy writer, and a Writer's Victoria member of several years. He has undertaken a Bachelor of Arts in English (UoM), a Bachelor of Business in Marketing (RMIT) and is the director of Blue Vapours Creative Studios – consulting with Museums Victoria, the Victorian Government, universities, and business. He lives in regional Victoria, where he works on the Arts Advisory Committee for the Bass Coast Council. With strategic planning skills and a love of writing, he also has strong fundamentals in managerial accounting – as well as being a genuinely nice person (well, he would say that, wouldn't he?).

Statement:

I like writing, I don't mind Victoria, and I hope to contribute to the ongoing success of this great club. Key issues I would like to address include more events to engage members (the end of year Christmas party a great example), a design refresh of the Victorian Writer (and a return of a more comprehensive "opportunities" section within), and a breaking open of attendance to events such as the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (run by the Wheeler Centre) for our membership. I offer more fun, am authentically interested in writing and you, and understand that failure is a bitch and success should be celebrated. I'm looking for more active participation by our membership, and want to boost our numbers by encouraging "aspiring writers" to become "writers".

GOODMAN, Williams

Biography:

I was born in Nanking, China. I graduated from Nanking University and Beijing Foreign Studies University. I have abundant experience in finance and marketing. I am interested in the financial issues and developing the markets, to establish the English Creative Writing Salon.

Statement:

Writers Victoria is a very good organisation. I want to contribute to this organisation on finance and on knowledge and on fundraising and on marketing skills. I want to be a committee member to make great contributions to this organisation.

HILL, Peter

Biography:

I have a Masters of Business Administration degree from LaTrobe University. I have a Certificate of Professional Writing and Editing. I am a member of the Institute of Community Directors Australia. I have been a member of the Committee of Management of Writers Victoria for five years and am the Secretary of the organisation. I serve on the Finance and Governance sub-committees, and I provide guidance on I.T. matters. I am a writer and editor. I write for a number of motoring publications. I have written the Biography of a motorsport personality which will be published by Veloce (UK) this year. I have a blog on things motoring: <http://www.speedsportblog.com> I have had short stories published in: New Writing; Short and Twisted; 21D; and Untitled. I have compiled and edited five books including: Practical Software Project Estimation published by McGraw Hill.

Statement:

I would like to continue my contribution to Writers Victoria through my position of Secretary, involvement on the Committee of Management, and work with the Finance and Governance sub-committees, bringing both my business and I.T. experience as well as my love of writing. I want to continue to help bring Writers Victoria's revised Rules of Association to completion.

KEESE, Ian

Biography:

I have a BSc from UNSW and a BA(Hons) in History from Sydney University and have written extensively in print and electronic media on History, Education, Philosophy and Religion, Current Affairs and Literary Criticism. I am a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators. I am a recent member of Writers Victoria but have attended several Reading for Writers Sessions and a workshop on Journalism. Positions held (selection): Head of Department in Government Secondary Schools; Past President of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia ((ISAA): Past Secretary NSW Branch of the Australian College of Educator; Current President of the Johnson Society of Australia; Community. Representative on the Board of Whitehorse/Manningham Libraries. Financial Expertise: As a self-employed writer I manage all my own financial affairs, including taxation and GST; as Presidents of organisations I have had to actively supervise budgets.

Statement:

I would bring a life-long involvement and interest in literature, my experience in writing varieties of non-fiction, and my expertise as an educator. In working in a wide variety of community organisations I have an inclusive and creative approach that respects all individuals and creates a positive atmosphere. My particular aim would be to further opportunities for all members, whatever their level of expertise, to feel part of a 'writing community' to ensure that they feel their needs met and that they maintain their membership.

KIRKMAN, Gemma

Biography:

Hi – I'm a Senior Finance Professional and have worked in multiple industries in commercial and private practice in various finance roles over the last 20 years. I hold a Bachelors Degree in Commerce Accounting and I'm a Member of the CPA Australia.

I have a Diploma in Professional writing for children and have self-published two childrens' fantasy books with the third scheduled for release later this year.

I joined Writers Victoria as I live in Melbourne and want to be a part of local writing communities. I will also be pursuing a mentorship later in the year through Writers Victoria.

My linkedIn profile gives more background to my work experience:

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/gemma-kirkman-989036165/>

Statement:

I am very experienced in finance management roles, and my passion is writing fantasy books. I feel this would be a great opportunity to contribute to the committee with my finance experience as well as gaining new contacts and management experiences within a professional writing company.

MULLINS, Sharon

Biography:

An editor by trade, I have 17 years' experience in book publishing and 8 years' experience in corporate and marketing communications at State Library Victoria. I have been lucky enough to work in the literary sector my whole career, and am passionate about all aspects of writing life and business. I am particularly interested in the transformative power of personal writing and also the possibilities for professional pathways in an increasingly digital environment. Being a member of Writers Victoria for the past four years, I have greatly valued and benefitted from the many opportunities to learn from experienced writers and editors, and connect to other writers. I am devoted to books, writing and reading and want everyone to feel as moved, connected and inspired by words and stories as I am!

Statement:

As the peak body for Victorian writers, Writers Victoria is a cornerstone of community and craft in this state and a vital resource for writers at all stages of development. It would be a privilege to contribute my industry knowledge and communication skills to further drive Writers Victoria's mission of connecting and supporting Victorian writers, and its strategic goals of growth, inclusion and sustainability.

I bring experience in the creative industries and strategic corporate communications that I hope could be of use as Writers Victoria looks towards the next stage of its development. As a budding writer and seasoned editor, I understand the needs of the community Writers Victoria serves, and the challenges we face both creatively and commercially at a personal as well as industry level.

NAGHAVI, Yasmin

Biography:

Yasmin Naghavi is a seasoned legal professional and leader – with a true benevolent heart. In her day-to-day life, Yasmin practises in creative industries law, at Media Arts Lawyers, representing grass-roots and distinguished companies and individuals in delicate matters covering intellectual property, contracts, employment, disputes, digital media, and best business practices. As a senior lawyer at the firm, Yasmin heads the creative industries practice, representing numerous authors, publishers, illustrators, designers, journalists, visual artists, and other content creators. Holding both a Juris Doctor (hons) and an MBA, Yasmin is a respected thought-leader in her field. In her capacity as a skilled operator and artist advocate, she's a serving board member of The Lifted Brow, a pro-bono lawyer for the Arts Law Centre of Australia, former Secretary of The Creative Women's Circle Association Inc. and a current mentor for the Sydney University Law Society Women's Mentoring Program.

Statement:

I would like to contribute to the writing community by bringing my knowledge, experience, and skills to an organisation that supports and champions the creative efforts of Victorian writers: Writers Victoria. My contributions could include:

1. Strong comprehension of legal frameworks and application of the law;
 2. Deep understanding of not-for-profit operations and governance;
 3. Problem solving through active listening and engagement;
 4. Leading by example;
 5. Identifying potential opportunities.
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ORCHARD, Sonia**Biography:**

I have worked as a professional writer for 20 years. My published work ranges from an award-winning novel to internationally published scientific research (www.soniaorchard.com.au). I have a PhD in Creative Writing, a Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing, and additional degrees in literature, environmental science and music. I have taught creative writing at RMIT's Prof Writing and Editing degree, Writers Victoria and through Booked Out. I moved to the Macedon Ranges from Melbourne in 2018 and since then have founded and chaired the Macedon Ranges Literary Association and have founded and am festival director of Mountain Writers Festival – Australia's only writers' festival to focus exclusively on the environment. The first festival will take place in October 2020 (www.mountainwritersfestival.com.au). In developing the festival, I have been working on partnerships with the Wheeler Centre, the Feminist Writers Festival, Australian Poetry, Writers Victoria, La Trobe University, local schools and the local Indigenous community.

Statement:

I have loved being part of the (Melbourne) writing community for 20 years and am now increasingly interested in how I can give back to this broader community. Since moving to Macedon two years ago, I have founded the Mountain Writers Festival, and have already raised enough money through grants and sponsorships to run a festival this October, with confirmations from some of Australia's most high-profile writers. As cost-of-living pushes creatives out of the city, regional creative hubs are becoming increasingly important and I'd like to help Writers Vic find ways to expand their presence in my other regional areas. My skills lie in finding creative solutions to problems, developing creative strategies and primarily in finding ways to get stuff done! I am a fast learner of new skills and am good at reaching out to people for knowledge exchange or to form partnerships.

RAYMOND, Josh**Biography:**

I completed my undergraduate in Media and English in 2014. In my undergraduate I studied both new and old media, but my course placed emphasis on newer forms of media including audio, podcasts and social media. In 2018 I then completed a Master's in Marketing Management, which focused on developing practical business skills. I have worked in politics for the last five years, working for Members of Parliaments in regional areas, working at both Federal and State level. In my roles I have focused on two areas: stakeholder engagement and communications. This has given me a broad range of experiences that have taught me to think strategically and given me excellent stakeholder management skills. I joined Writers Victoria late last year in an attempt to expand my horizons, look for new options and to encourage myself to be more creative and embrace my passion for writing.

Statement:

I would like to be a committee member because I have a passion for reading, writing and community. Fostering relationships and forming community is of particular importance right now due to the Federal Government cutting their Arts department; writers require a voice to stand up to such changes and advocate for them. I could contribute a wide array of marketing and community engagement skills to this committee. I have an in-depth and strong understanding of the media environment, that is now dramatically shifting as social media changes how organizations need to operate. This also gives me the ability to build a marketing plan that meets the needs of

Writers Victoria; that both fosters community between writers and promote their interests more broadly. I also would be able to guide the committee in engaging the stakeholders that they represent and those the organization needs to interact with more broadly.

SEKULOV, Victor

Biography:

Victor Sekulov is a Finance Manager with over thirty years' experience obtained in the corporate, private and the public sectors, including Not-For-Profit and health benevolent organisations. Victor is currently serving on the Board of GV Health and chairs the Finance & Infrastructure Committee as well as member of both the Audit & Risk and Quality committees. He has sat as a member of a number of committees in his role as Finance Manager/Financial Controller. These have included Audit Committees for major public hospitals; Policy Steering Committees, Evaluation of Service and Tender Committees. He has also been on the Darebin Libraries Steering Committee, Football Federation Victoria Women's Football Committee and has had both Board and Committee of Management roles for environmental and non-profit social enterprise organisations. Victor brings to Writers Victoria vast financial, operational and governance experience ensuring Writers Victoria is well placed to deal with the challenges ahead.

Statement:

My name is Victor Sekulov and I am Writers Victoria's longest standing elected Committee of Management member and Chair of the Finance sub-Committee. During my tenure I have been responsible for training and mentoring three finance managers, two Directors and a number of Committee members in the proper financial stewardship of Writers Victoria. I have been a champion ensuring Writers Victoria continues to operate in a financially responsible manner that safeguards its ongoing viability for the benefit of all its members.

I would like to be your Committee member as I bring proven dedication and commitment to the role and responsibility bestowed on committee members who work on behalf of all members. My passion for the vision that Writers Victoria and its members embrace has not diminished, and I can assure you I will continue to provide that professional stewardship on your behalf to Writers Victoria is financially managed in a responsible way.

SHAW, Megan

Biography:

Megan Shaw has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Melbourne and a Masters of Business Administration from Deakin University. She has published papers in both the medical and marine science fields and written many technical dossiers, interpreting science into simple lay arguments. Her writing skills were predominantly crafted in science and nonfiction before completing a Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing at Victoria University.

Megan enjoys perfecting the written word by collaborating and helping others achieve their writing potential. She is passionate about diversity, inclusion and promoting equality.

She is an accredited Mental Health First Aider and believes mental health is the next frontier of acceptance in our global community. Writing stories that engage anxiety is a way of beginning conversations and normalising mental health. Anxiety is felt by all to different degrees, and awareness can make for a better world.

Statement:

What's in it for me? Having just finished my Dip. PWE, I would like to learn and appreciate other dimensions of writing and our writing community. This will keep my writing-self front and centre and continue to motivate me on this journey. I would also like to assist the work of Writer's Victoria in encouraging and supporting new and emerging writers. It all helps.

For Writer's Victoria I can offer fresh eyes and enthusiasm as well as time (now that I'm not studying) and the discipline of getting the job done. I have very good organisational and project management skills, having served on several committees of diverse function. I enjoy the team atmosphere and collaborative approach to getting projects over the line.

SHEPHERD, Mitchell

Biography:

I've recently relocated to Victoria from Queensland. I'm currently staying in Mornington with family, until I can get set up in Melbourne, which hopefully won't be too much longer.

I have a communications degree, an honours degree in psychology and a masters degree in public policy. My work background consists of roles in academic and market research, communications, government policy and mental health. I currently run my own copywriting and communications business - <https://www.mitchellshepherd.com.au/> My hobbies are writing, reading and staying fit/sports. I also don't mind the odd game of AFL.

Statement:

I'd like to become part of WV because I've been an interstate member for several years, and now that I'm in Melbourne, would like to get involved. I have broad professional experience, which can be of value to WV, and would join the organisation with fresh eyes and ears. I'm reliable, responsible and am easy to work with.

SLESS, Justine

Biography:

I've been a member of WV for four years.

I'm completing an MA by research in creative writing – my research is gender and comedy – which is a great segue into my work as a comedian, MC and former creative director of Melbourne Jewish Comedy Festival.

I love the ethos and support that WV offers writers – nothing like this exists for comedians!

I won the Grace Marion Wilson Prize in 2016 had a short story in the 2020 WV magazine and have stories published in anthologies and online. I've attended three WV short story workshops. I've had the honour of being mentored by EO Angela Savage since 2016 on a variety of writing endeavours.

I was the former treasurer of the peak body of Neighbourhood Houses and have strong marketing and IT skills.

Statement:

It would be an honour to serve on the board of WV. I have worked for and established non-profits, organisations and festivals, served on boards and committees of management and was a long serving school council president. I have a broad skill base from strong finance management, expertise in funding applications, social media and events and project management. I would love to play a part in the continued growth of this magical organisation supporting the staff and members of WV.
