

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 DECEMBER 2008**

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

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**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2008</b> \$	<b>2007</b> \$
Revenue	<b>2</b>	477,425	444,741
Auditor's remuneration	<b>3</b>	(2,500)	(2,000)
Commissions paid		(4,350)	(3,318)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(4,746)	(5,748)
Employee benefits expenses		(207,358)	(188,521)
Freight and cartage		(4,390)	(19,308)
Other expenses		(241,681)	(202,306)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>4</b>	12,400	23,540
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		33,484	9,944
<b>Profit attributable to the association</b>		45,884	33,484

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	125,360	113,759
Trade and other receivables	6	19,450	18,584
Inventories	7	1,944	1,828
Other current assets	8	10,786	3,129
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>157,540</u>	<u>137,300</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	8,606	12,267
Intangible assets	10	3,880	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>12,486</u>	<u>12,267</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>170,026</u>	<u>149,567</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	110,911	99,395
Provisions	12	9,031	14,588
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>119,942</u>	<u>113,983</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	12	4,200	2,100
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>4,200</u>	<u>2,100</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>124,142</u>	<u>116,083</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>45,884</u>	<u>33,484</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings	13	45,884	33,484
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>45,884</u>	<u>33,484</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from customers	270,963	255,404
Payments to suppliers and employees	(464,758)	(406,284)
Interest received	9,602	5,063
Receipts from Grants	200,759	212,202
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>16,566</u>	<u>66,385</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(1,085)	(3,554)
Payments for intangibles	(3,880)	-
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<u>(4,965)</u>	<u>(3,554)</u>
Net increase in cash held	11,601	62,831
Cash at beginning of financial year	113,759	50,928
Cash at end of financial year	<u>125,360</u>	<u>113,759</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

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**1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

Victorian Writers Centre Incorporated as an individual entity. Victorian Writers Centre Incorporated is an association incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Victoria.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in a financial report containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards ensures that the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this financial report are presented below. They have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

**Accounting Policies**

**Inventories**

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of manufactured products includes direct materials, direct labour and an appropriate portion of variable and fixed overheads. Overheads are applied on the basis of normal operating capacity. Costs are assigned on the basis of weighted average costs.

**Property, Plant and Equipment**

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

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## **Financial Instruments**

### **Recognition and Initial Measurement**

Financial instruments, incorporating financial assets and financial liabilities, are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Trade date accounting is adopted for financial assets that are delivered within timeframes established by marketplace convention.

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transactions costs where the instrument is not classified as at fair value through profit or loss. Transaction costs related to instruments classified as at fair value through profit or loss are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Financial instruments are classified and measured as set out below.

## **Intangibles**

### **Other intangibles**

Website establishment costs are recognised at cost and amortised over four years.

## **Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. Those cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows.

### **Defined superannuation schemes**

In respect of defined benefit plans, the cost of providing the benefits is determined using the projected unit credit method. Actuarial valuations are conducted every three years, with interim valuations performed on an annual basis. Consideration is given to any event that could impact the funds up to balance sheet date where the interim valuation is performed at an earlier date.

The amount recognised in the balance sheet represents the present value of the defined benefit obligations adjusted for any unrecognised actuarial gains and losses and unrecognised past service costs less the fair value of the plan's assets. Any asset recognised is limited to unrecognised actuarial losses, plus the present value of available refunds and reductions in future contributions to the plan.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

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Actuarial gains and losses are amortised over the expected average remaining working lives of the participating employees in the scheme. Gains or losses on the curtailment or settlement of a defined benefit plan are recognised in the income statement when the association is demonstrably committed to the curtailment or settlement.

Past services costs are recognised when incurred to the extent that benefits are vested, and are otherwise amortised on a straight-line basis over the vesting period.

### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

### **Revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

Revenue from Grants received is recognised as income in the period to which the grant relates.

### **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

### **Comparative Figures**

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>2 Revenue</b>		
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Interest received	9,602	5,063
Rendering of services	443,068	409,536
Other revenue	24,755	30,142
Total revenue	<u>477,425</u>	<u>444,741</u>
<b>3 Auditor's Remuneration</b>		
<b>Auditor's Remuneration</b>		
Auditing Services	1,250	1,000
Other Services	1,250	1,000
	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>4 Profit</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	4,746	5,748
<b>5 Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash on Hand	300	200
Cash at Bank	125,060	113,559
	<u>125,360</u>	<u>113,759</u>
<b>Reconciliation of cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>125,360</u>	<u>113,759</u>
	<u>125,360</u>	<u>113,759</u>

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>6 Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Trade Debtors	10,680	9,936
Other Debtors	8,770	8,648
	19,450	18,584
<b>7 Inventories</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
At cost:		
Finished Goods	1,944	1,828
<b>8 Other Current Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Prepayments	10,786	3,129
<b>9 Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
<b>PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<b>Plant and Equipment:</b>		
At cost	55,785	102,786
Accumulated depreciation	(47,179)	(90,519)
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	8,606	12,267

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

		2008		2007	
		\$		\$	
<b>Movements in Carrying Amounts</b>					
Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.					
	Freehold Land	Buildings	Office Equipment & Library	Leased Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2007	-	-	14,461	-	14,461
Additions	-	-	3,554	-	3,554
Depreciation expense	-	-	(5,748)	-	(5,748)
Balance at 31 December 2007	-	-	12,267	-	12,267
Additions	-	-	1,085	-	1,085
Depreciation expense	-	-	(4,746)	-	(4,746)
Carrying amount at 31 December 2008	-	-	8,606	-	8,606

**10 Intangible Assets**

Website		3,880		-
<b>Total</b>		<u>3,880</u>		<u>-</u>

Website		3,880		-
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**11 Trade and Other Payables**

**Current**

Trade Creditors		13,313		2,955
Other Creditors		-		625
Income in Advance		88,318		83,154
GST Payable		1,302		4,545
Amounts Withheld		7,978		8,116
		<u>110,911</u>		<u>99,395</u>

**12 Provisions**

Provision for Holiday Pay		9,031		14,588
Provision for Long Service Leave		4,200		2,100
<b>Total provisions</b>		<u>13,231</u>		<u>16,688</u>

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Analysis of Total Provisions</b>		
Current	9,031	14,588
Non-current	4,200	2,100
	13,231	16,688
<b>13 Retained Earnings</b>		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	33,484	9,944
Net profit attributable to the association	12,400	23,540
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	45,884	33,484
<b>14 Capital and Leasing Commitments</b>		
<b>Operating Lease Commitments</b>		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
Payable - minimum lease payments		
Not later than 12 months	10,222	51,206
Between 12 months and five years	4,730	-
	14,952	51,206
<b>15 Cash Flow Information</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash on Hand	300	200
Cash at Bank	125,060	113,559
	125,360	113,759

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to profit from ordinary activities after income tax</b>		
Operating profit (loss) after income tax	12,400	23,540
<b>Non-cash flows in profit from ordinary activities:</b>		
Depreciation	4,746	5,748
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposals of subsidiaries</b>		
(Increase) Decrease in current inventories	(116)	(359)
(Increase) Decrease in current receivables	(866)	(6,243)
(Increase) Decrease in prepayments	(7,657)	(154)
Increase (Decrease) in trade creditors	6,352	1,164
Increase (Decrease) in current provisions	(5,557)	4,397
Increase (Decrease) in non-current provisions	2,100	2,100
Increase (Decrease) in income in advance	5,164	36,192
<b>Cash flows from operations</b>	16,566	66,385

## **16 Financial Risk Management**

### **Financial Risk Management Policies**

The association's financial instruments consists primarily of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, loans to and from subsidiaries, bills and leases.

The chairman's overall risk management strategy seeks to assist the association in meeting its financial targets, whilst minimising potential adverse effects on financial performance.

Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the committee on a regular basis. These included the credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements.

The association does not have any derivative instruments at 31 December 2008.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

**2008**  
**\$**

**2007**  
**\$**

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**17 Association Details**

The registered office of the association is:

37 Swanston St, Melbourne

The principal place of business is:

37 Swanston St, Melbourne

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 12:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Victorian Writers Centre Incorporated as at 31 December 2008 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Victorian Writers Centre Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Thompson

**Treasurer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Joel Plotnek

**Dated this day of**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED  
A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**Scope**

I have audited the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 13 of Victorian Writers Centre Incorporated for the financial year ended 31 December 2008. The Committee is responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the association's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**Independence**

In conducting my audit, I followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia the financial position of Victorian Writers Centre Incorporated as at 31 December 2008, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

**Name of Firm:** Boyar Partners  
Chartered Accountants

**Name of Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Boyar

**Address:** Caulfield South

**Dated this day of February 2009**

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Membership	99,828	92,360
Grants Received	200,759	186,255
Projects Events & Seminars	84,034	76,190
Advertising	20,437	14,841
Assessments	29,310	29,713
Publications	8,700	10,177
	<hr/> 443,068	<hr/> 409,536
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>		
Interest Received	9,602	5,063
Sundry Income	4,759	1,187
Room Hire	4,382	10,695
Gross profit from rental operations	15,614	18,260
	<hr/> 34,357	<hr/> 35,205
	<hr/> 477,425	<hr/> 444,741

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Auditor's Remuneration	2,500	2,000
Bank Charges	4,717	4,649
Computer Expenses	4,350	3,318
Consultancy Fees	-	3,900
Depreciation	4,746	5,748
Freight & Postage	4,390	19,308
General Expenses	200	77
Governance	1,646	541
Insurance	2,267	2,334
Internet & Web Page Expenses	-	3,394
Light & Power	1,821	1,480
Long Service Leave	2,100	2,100
Manuscript Assessments	23,100	20,740
Marketing & Promotions	13,257	4,821
Office Expenses	8,795	5,052
Printing & Newsletter	52,624	29,822
Publication Expenses	8,252	12,965
Regional Funding	7,222	818
Rent	41,343	39,753
Repairs & Maintenance	1,178	2,600
Salaries	186,799	168,850
Seminars & Workshops	63,031	58,465
Staff Training & Welfare	1,547	3,085
Subscriptions	870	914
Superannuation Contributions	16,912	14,486
Telephone	5,779	5,209
Travelling Expenses	3,161	2,676
Workcover	2,418	2,096
	465,025	421,201
Profit before income tax	12,400	23,540
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>12,400</b>	<b>23,540</b>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	33,484	9,944
<b>Retained earnings at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>45,884</b>	<b>33,484</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**VICTORIAN WRITERS CENTRE INCORPORATED**  
**A.B.N. 18 268 487 576**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

	2008	2007
	\$	\$

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**Victorian Writers Centre Incorporated.**

**SUPPORTING SCHEDULES TO THE PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008**

<b>Last Year</b>		<b>This Year</b>
	Grants Received	
125,000	Arts Victoria	127,875
49,235	Australia Council	50,564
3,720	Other	22,320
8,300	Local Council	-
<u>\$186,255</u>		<u>\$200,759</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Victorian Writers' Centre Inc

## Annual Report 2008

### Mission Statement

To be the leading provider of resources, information and skills development for Victorian writers, and to support and promote those writers, writers' networks, the act of writing and the diverse writing cultures of Victoria.

### Goals

- Provide quality information and referral services to Victorian writers
- Support and provide resources for Victorian writers in their creative and professional development.
- Promote Victorian writers and writing to wider audiences
- Maintain and consolidate a sustainable and effective organisation and management structure

### Staff

#### **Director/CEO**

Joel Becker

#### **Program Manager & Financial Officer**

Mary Napier

#### **Office Administrator**

Sonya Soares (until August)

Jacquelin Low (Sept-Dec)

#### **Publications Officers**

Robyn Deed

Eva Matthews (until Sept)

Naomi Morrison (Sept-Dec)

#### **Bookkeeper**

Graham Archer

### Committee of Management

Chris Thompson (Chair)

Fran Madigan (Deputy Chair)

Joel Plotnek (Treasurer)

Isolde Lueckenhausen (Secretary/Public Officer)

Jill Blee

Annie O'Hanlon

Ian Robinson

Eddie Creaney (from Dec 2008)

### Patron

Noel Turnbull

### Life members

Barbara Giles (dec), Bev Roberts, Joan Sellar, Joyce Lee (dec), Judith Rodriguez, Kevin Brophy, Christine McKenzie, Chris Wallace-Crabbe, Iola Mathews

### Volunteers and Interns

The VWC is grateful for the ongoing support of a highly skilled team of volunteers and interns who are dedicated and highly professional. Volunteers assist with organising the library, newsletter proofing, sending out competition forms, data entry and proofing, updating of the website, opening seminars, forums and workshops and assisting with other special events.

#### **Volunteer Librarian**

Pam Davison

#### **Volunteer Competitions Coordinator**

Sue Penhall

### Supporters

The VWC gratefully acknowledges the individuals, organisations and businesses whose support has contributed greatly to the success of the Centre's program in 2008

### Government

Arts Victoria

Australia Council Literature Board

### Business Community Supporters

Readings Books & Music

### Philanthropic Trusts and Gifts

Grace Marion Wilson Trust

The Pratt Foundation

Pam Davison and Ron Smooker

Readings Foundation

### Organisations and Institutional Partners

National Trust Victoria

Express Media

Emerging Writers' Festival

Melbourne Writers' Festival

State Library of Victoria

Chisholm Institute PWE Course

### Contact Details

Victorian Writers' Centre Inc

ABN 18 268 487 576

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37 Swanston Street,

Melbourne VIC 3000

[info@vwc.org.au](mailto:info@vwc.org.au)

[www.vwc.org.au](http://www.vwc.org.au)

P: 03 9654 9068

Fx: 03 9654 4751



## Chair's Report

What a *BIG* year 2008 turned out to be. There've been lots of changes and developments at the VWC since our last AGM and there's more to come yet. Some of these changes will have been obvious to you. We have a new look on all our printed and electronically communicated material. There was much discussion and debate between the staff, the Committee and, of course, Dianna Wells the designer, regarding the right kind of livery for the VWC in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Committee was very pleased with the elegant, understated and classy new look that this process provided for the VWC and hopefully you will agree that we have a new 'brand' that will represent us into the future.

If you access the centre via the internet, then you'll be aware of another big change that's come about during the year. Thanks to the clever people at Inventive Labs, we have our new website at long last and, not only does it look good and provide easier access to the electronic environment of the Centre, but it will also allow us to provide a much better service as we become better equipped to engage with our members and the writing community in general in both the real and virtual worlds.

One change you can't have missed has been the continued excellent development of our print and 'e' publications. Both the Victorian Writer magazine and our Weekly 'e' News as well as the 2009 VWC Program Brochure have provided our members with all the news and information we could possibly need in very beautifully designed and easily accessible formats.

Of course, these more noticeable changes are the result of the collective imagination and hard work of our outstanding staff, our dedicated volunteers and the terrific professional creatives engaged by the Centre all brought together under the vision and leadership of our Director Joel Becker. On behalf of the Committee and the membership of the VWC, I'd like to congratulate all of you on

many, many jobs well done. I will leave it to Joel to make individual comments and commendations, especially regarding those staff members who have left us or joined us or found themselves taking on new roles and challenges within the Centre. Suffice to say, it is your skills and commitment to the VWC that give such high quality experiences of our members and other participants and allow the members of the Committee of Management to have a lot to be proud of.

And speaking of the Committee of Management, we've been hard at work too, and whilst the fruits of our labours might not be as immediately apparent to the naked eye, we're pretty confident that the long term health and sustainability of the VWC will be improved by the behind-the-scenes work we've done during the year. We are very pleased to have completed our initial round of policy development providing the Centre with a clearly articulated set of ground rules for how and why we operate or respond in different key situations. We have also commenced the development of a new strategic plan that will see us working with our staff to focus on improving the VWC's capacity to conduct business and deliver information on the internet; to increase the effectiveness of the way we engage with writers in regional Victoria; to better support our human resources and ensure their sustainability; to expand the range and reach of our programme; and to consolidate and diversify our sources of income. There're some pretty big goals on that list and we are looking forward to reporting to you next year that our new plan is doing its job in making sure we achieve them.

But there's one really BIG change coming up that not only tops them all, but forms the context within which all of this year's work has taken place. By now, you no doubt know that Melbourne is officially a City of Literature. Truth be told, we probably already knew that, and that the literary life of the city extends to those outer metropolitan and regional writers and readers who complete that vibrant picture. But now the rest of the world has caught up with it all and the focal point for this will be the VWC's new home, the Centre for Books, Writing & Ideas.

At this point in time, the promise of this new home is still on the horizon, but by this time next year it will be a reality and much of the Committee's focus over the past twelve months has been about embracing this wonderful opportunity and using it to strengthen the capacity of the VWC to support

our members and other writers throughout Victoria. That will continue to be our focus until we make the move, hopefully by September.

So with that quick snapshot of the past twelve months, it's time to make a few acknowledgements. I have already mentioned our staff and volunteers. I'd also like to offer the Committee's thanks and congratulations to our Director, Joel Becker. If the staff and volunteers are the engine of the VWC, then Joel is our GPS. He has ably managed to oversee the growth of our programme during 2008 in the midst of the many changes whilst keeping a weather eye on the approaching realisation of our part in the Centre for Books, Writing & ideas. And to his credit, he's managed to do this and deliver us a surplus at the same time. Well done, Joel and to all the staff and volunteers.

A surplus makes us all happy at AGM time, but no-one more than Joel Plotnek who has championed the role of treasurer for the past six years doing what few number-crunchers are capable of; making sense of those strings of numbers to those who find them a little bit daunting. Sadly, our constitution does not allow for Committee members to serve for more than six years, so we reluctantly say farewell to the 'Other Joel' and a huge thanks for his calm but firm demeanor in all matters financial and his considerable contributions to the Committee as a whole. Thanks Joel. You'll be missed.

In Joel's place we welcome a familiar face to the Committee. Many of you will know Eddie Creaney as a stalwart of the Victorian Writers' Centre who, for longer than I've been here, has been voluntarily greeting us all at our AGMs and supporting the Centre in many other capacities. Now he's formalised that role with a position on the Committee of Management and we welcome you Eddie, even though you've been here longer than most of us.

My thanks, of course, to the other members of the Committee: Deputy Chair, Fran Madigan; Secretary Isolde Lueckenhausen; and our other members Jill Blee, Annie O'Hanlon and Ian Robinson, who this is retiring after a two-year term. Thank to Ian for his contributions and your excellent proof-reading. I hope the Committee will agree, however, that one member must be singled out for a bit of 'above and beyond'. Isolde's tireless work on two or three key legal issues over the past year has been invaluable to the VWC and we are grateful to her and to her legal firm, TressCox who have

supported her in these efforts. Thank you all for your hard work and excellent collaboration over many issues in the past year. The Centre is a better place for the work you all do. And now it's time to get excited about what we'll have to report when we all meet again at the Centre for Books, Writing & Ideas in twelve months time. Hoo Roo for now...

**Chris Thompson. Chair**



## **Treasurer's Report**

The Victorian Writers' Centre ended the financial year, 31 December 2008, with a surplus of \$12,400, giving us a surplus for two years running.

Income increased from last year by \$32,684 due to increases in grants, events, seminars and our ongoing commitment to annually review membership fees. Total expenditure has increased from last year by \$43,824, a proportionately bigger increase in costs on the previous 2007 year resulting in a lower surplus this year to last year's surplus of \$23,540.

The slight increases in costs this year are due primarily to staff leave adjustments. Newsletter production costs have only increased marginally but appear higher as expenses for Freight & Postage have been allocated to Printing & Newsletter this year. Overall, costs have been kept within budget resulting in a further build up of retained earnings to last year.

The continuing positive outcome for 2008 reflects our ongoing commitment to build up cash reserves by budgeting for adequate margins in operational areas such as service and membership fees. The VWC also acknowledges the financial support of Victorian Arts and Australian Council of the Arts without which we could not continue to exist.

As part of our commitment to financial responsibility and the future viability of the VWC, the Committee of Management will review membership and service fees on an ongoing basis. We will continue to seek government and other funding so as to offset membership fee increases to the fullest extent possible. We are also committed to cutting costs wherever possible.

Cash reserves increased from \$113,759 to \$125,360, an increase of \$11,601 from last year. We remind members that a substantial portion of these reserves, \$88,318 for 2008, represents grant funding and membership fees received in advance. Nevertheless this still leaves cash set aside for contingency reserves – money saved for a rainy day. This is part of responsible management and has been encouraged by the arts funding bodies that support us.

The rainy day savings is reflected in working capital (current assets less current liabilities) which has increased by \$14,281 from last year as a result of net assets increasing in 2008. These balances confirm that cash reserves have continued to grow in the last year with net assets of \$45,884 in reserve after allowing for total liabilities. This means the VWC continues in a stronger financial position relative to recent years where cash reserves on occasion had been drawn down due to operational deficits.

The year ahead presents the VWC with a fantastic opportunity to relocate to new premises housed next to the State Library of Victoria as part of the new Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas. The process of moving from one venue to another may create some operational variances, particularly around expenses, compared to previous years. This move reinforces the need to budget for contingency cash reserves. The Committee of Management have worked hard with the Director, Joel Becker, to anticipate contingencies so that finances stay on track with budget over the course of this year.

I will not be here next year to report on the outcome as my time as Treasurer finishes with the delivery of this report. I have been working with our incoming Treasurer, Eddie Creaney, over the last few months to ensure a smooth handover. I warmly welcome Eddie who is no stranger to the VWC, and I am confident the committee and VWC will be in good financial hands with Eddie as Treasurer.

I have enjoyed my last six years on the committee and thank those committee members I have worked with who have given generously of their time and energy to the VWC. Chris Thompson is an exemplary Chair keeping the Committee of Management focused and productive and as part of our finance subcommittee keeps a diligent watch on the numbers. Joel Becker is an inspiring Director who has lead with enthusiasm and commitment and is never short of new funding

ideas. Of course the staff members are what make the VWC really tick and our staff have always been highly motivated and dedicated to the VWC in my time here. Graham Archer our bookkeeper has been a great support making sure the numbers are in shape and always pushing out our financial reports on time.

Every year we encourage members to assist us in keeping the VWC running by volunteering where opportunities arise and to support the VWC with your donations which are tax deductible.

We are grateful for those members that continue to support the VWC by attending the workshops and seminars and renewing their memberships when due which enables us to continue our mission as the leading provider of information resources and skill development to nurture and promote the diverse writing culture in Victoria.

**Joel Plotnek, Treasurer**



### **Director's Report**

2008 was a year of great change, and preparation for further change, for the Victorian Writers' Centre. From a reasonably financially secure position – in the second of three-year financial agreements with our two key funding organisations – Arts Victoria and the Australia Council, we embarked on developing a new website, developing an integrated program, consolidating improvements in our monthly members' magazine and presenting a new organisational design image. We also continued to prepare for our major relocation in the late 2009 – to the Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas.

Membership continued to grow. We believe the key factors in this growth was the expansion of the program, the magazine, the opportunities presented by a 're-badging' and some of the attendant publicity from the naming of Melbourne as a UNESCO City of Literature – a process in which we were a key player.

Glenfern continued to be a great success story for the Centre with more than 90% occupancy for the year. Our partnership with the National Trust

Victoria continues to be a great part of this relationship.

Every year I seem to say this: the program through 2008 was our biggest and most comprehensive yet. The 'Year of...' courses and the 'Summer Reading School' continued to develop and grow. In 2009, we will further expand the program.

In 2008 as you can read in the financial report, we had an operating surplus in line with our budget, and the requirements of our funding. The last two years have seen a significant turnaround in our finances, with an operating surplus growing in line with recommendations from our key funding bodies. We have budgeted for a similar operating surplus in 2009.

### Staffing

**Mary Napier** had her first full year as Program Manager, developing and curating a large, diverse program. Mary is to be commended for an outstanding effort. Mary was also finance officer.

**Robyn Deed** and **Eva Matthews** co-edited the VWC members' magazine through the September 2008 issue. Eva was replaced by **Naomi Morrison**, who co-edited *Victorian Writer* with Robyn until the end of 2008. From September, the publications area was restructured to include *Victorian Writer*, the weekly E-bulletin, Website, and producing the annual program calendar.

**Sonya Soares** was Administration Officer until the end of August, when she left to travel, and to pursue other interests. Sonya was replaced by **Jacquelin Low**, who brings significant organisational skills, and exceptionally strong customer/membership services experience to the position. In 2009 she will also be taking on the financial officer's skills, as well as supervising a casual administration assistant and administration interns and volunteers. Our bookkeeper, **Graham Archer**, continues to do a sterling job.

It is a privilege working with the staff, those who have moved on, as well as the current group of committed people who make up the VWC. An enormously important part of the extended family is our generous and dedicated team of volunteers. Without that support many of the significant member services that we offer would be reduced. Some of those who made regular contributions in the office are **Sue Penhall**, our competitions volunteer and **Pam Davison**, our volunteer librarian. It is difficult to single out individuals amongst the many volunteers, without leaving

others out. In 2009 we are developing a coordinated Internship program to assist in developing skills and increasing our volunteer program.

### Committee of Management

Thanks to our very active Committee of Management for their support in 2008. Our Chair, **Chris Thompson**, has led from the front, and all members contributed in significant ways to what was a successful and challenging year for the Centre. I'd particularly like to thank retiring Committee member **Joel Plotnek** for all his efforts, friendship and support through good and difficult times. A special thank-you to **Noel Turnbull**, the VWC Patron, who has been a key figure in the VWC's successful efforts to push for the creation of the Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas.



### GLENFERN WRITERS' STUDIOS

Through the generosity of National Trust (Victoria), the Victorian Writers' Centre administers Glenfern Writers' Studios, providing nine studios for writers to work in quiet, peaceful surrounds. Three of them have been occupied by ongoing tenants: one by **Iola Mathews**, our writer-in-residence and developer of the project; two studios house the Australian Poetry Centre – which will be relocating to the Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas in late 2009. The other six are occupied by writers for periods of from two weeks to six-12 months.

These writers spent time at Glenfern during 2008:

- Australian Poetry Centre
- Iola Mathews
- Pearl Wilson
- Hilary Bonney
- Jason Cotter (Readings Fellowship)
- Sean Dooley (Readings Fellowship)
- Hilary Bonney
- Jane Bossence
- Patricia Larkins
- Brian Nankervis
- Susan Thompson
- Christine James
- Fiona Wood
- Leslie Cannold
- Simone Howell
- Lucinda Strahan
- Andrea Rogers

### **Occupancy**

Glenfern Writers' Studios occupancy was more than 90 percent with generally the result of lags between departure and start times for tenants.

### **Glenfern Public Program**

Tenants, the Australian Poetry Centre had a number of salons. The VWC ran three conversations – with Ann Blainey, Don Watson and Michael Gawenda. Forward planning was done for a series of workshops and public events in 2009.

### **Glenfern and National Trust Victoria**

The Victorian Writers' Centre gratefully acknowledges the support it receives from the National Trust Victoria, who are the custodians of Glenfern, an 1850s mansion given to the Trust in 1984 by Miss Amy Ostberg whose family had owned the property since 1907. Their generosity resulted in 16 writers and the Australian Poetry Centre having access to writers' studios in 2008.

### **Glenfern Readings Fellowships**

Readings Books & Music continued its very generous support for an annual fellowship for a writer – providing 12 months' rent for a Glenfern Writers' Studio in 2008 to Jason Cotter. The 2009 Readings Fellows are Paul Mitchell and Fiona Wood, who are each receiving six-month fellowships to work on their projects.

### **Glenfern in 2009**

The VWC is running a series of four weekend master classes in 2009, as well as several independent workshops. The hope is that there will be occasional 'conversations' held at Glenfern. There continues to be a high demand for studio space at Glenfern ensuring full capacity into the foreseeable future. Glenfern continues to be regarded as a valued resource – and with the development of an active program in 2009, will continue to service the writing community and improve the exposure of the VWC to an ever-widening audience.

### **Supporting writing and ideas**

The Victorian Writers' Centre has continued its role as a primary partner of the Emerging Writers' Festival, and I served as an *ex officio* member of the EWF Board until late 2008. It was felt that the festival had outgrown the need for Board level support from the VWC and Express Media, and I retired from the Committee. The Emerging Writers Festival in 2008 was its most successful and ambitious to date, and the next Festival is scheduled for May 2009.

The VWC continues to be a supporter of the Premier's Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript by an Emerging Victorian Writer. There have been numerous success stories already coming from this award, which specifically recognises and supports the development of writers in Victoria. We anticipate having a long association with the State Library of Victoria, who continue to do a marvellous job administering these prizes. We also worked very closely with Committee for Melbourne, who administer the much-vaunted Melbourne Prize for Literature, a triennial prize to be held again in 2009.

The Summer Reading School was held in the Conference Centre at the State Library in January 2008, with six events held. The VWC hosted a major event as part of Indigenous Literacy Day with Alexis Wright, Arnold Zable, John Marsden and Adrian Hyland in September 2008 in the State Library of Victoria's Village Roadshow Theatre. The VWC partnered with Tashmadada to host an event with Deborah Leiser-Moore, Julian Meyrick, Motti Lerner and in July 2008 in the Conference Centre. The State Library of Victoria was the venue sponsor for these events, and we gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the SLV.

The Doris Leadbetter Melbourne Poetry Cup, which celebrates performance poetry, continues to receive major support from Pam Davison and Ron Smooker to support the prize, with a cash donation of \$2500 a year plus the presentation of a specially sculpted perpetual cup. The winner of the Cup was Melbourne poet Jessica Friedman.

Readings Books & Music continued its very generous support for an annual fellowship for a writer – providing 12 months' rent for a Glenfern Writers' Studio.

### **Grace Marion Wilson Trust**

The Victorian Writers' Centre received more than \$26,000 from the Marion Grace Wilson Trust to assist in developing projects in which aspiring writers were being assisted in honing their craft. Grace Marion Wilson was born in Adelaide and died in Melbourne in 2001, at 93. Miss Wilson was an ardent follower and supporter of the arts in Melbourne, and even with failing eyesight in her latter life, regularly attended plays and concerts. In this context, her desire to use her financial resources to encourage writing and performing talent is expressed in the establishment of a Trust to carry out her wishes. The activities include a number of projects to be delivered between July 2008 and June 2009.

**Creative Writing Class:** A five-day intensive advanced writing workshop with Antoni Jach

**Regional Writers on the Road:** Writers visiting Victorian regional centres, running workshops and doing readings.

**Glenfern Writer's Residency:** The Grace Marion Wilson Trust will support the cost of a studio at Glenfern for one year – allowing for a total of 12 months of writers residencies.

**Mentorship:** A mentorship with a senior writer

**Competition:** Short fiction and literary non-competitions run by the VWC, which include publication for the first and second prize winner(s) in a special supplement to *Victorian Writer*.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Grace Marion Wilson Trust for supporting these projects benefiting developing, emerging and established writers in Victoria. It will certainly allow for additional opportunities, and we hope this will be the beginning of a long, productive relationship with the bequest.

#### **Funding and Sustainability**

As well as the \$127,875 provided by Arts Victoria, we entered into another triennial agreement with the Australia Council, where we are identified as a 'Key Organisation'. Funding for 2008 was \$50,564.

These factors combined with an increase in membership and program revenue, and conservative expenditure resulted in a surplus of \$12,400 for 2008 – our second consecutive year with a solid operational surplus. Our funding bodies have set a goal of having cash reserves equal to 20% of annual turnover. We are more than half-way toward this objective.

#### **External Activities**

A significant part of my role as Director and CEO of the VWC is to be involved in the wider community. During 2008, I continued to be a member of the State Library Writers & Readers Committee and part of the panel that determined Creative Fellowships at the Library; serve on several curriculum review panels, including Deakin, RMIT and CAE; the Emerging Writers' Festival Inc Board until late 2008; and a judge for the Victorian Premiers Literary Award for Fiction in 2008. I also delivered a number of seminars and lectures to students studying professional writing and creative writing at a number of TAFEs and Universities throughout the year.

#### **Looking to the future...**

The Victorian Writers' Centre is to be moving into the Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas (CBWI) in September 2009. Located along the Little Lonsdale Street wing of the State Library of Victoria, the following locations will be co-located in the Centre: the VWC, Express Media, Emerging Writers' Festival, Australian Poetry Centre and the Melbourne Writers' Festival. As well as that, other organisations are likely to be housed in the space, and the CBWI will deliver will be delivering and partnering a wide range of activities.

We expect that there will be opportunities heading toward 2010 and beyond for extensive collaboration and partnerships between the organisations. Activity centred around Melbourne's appellation as a UNESCO City of Literature will also be delivered through the CBWI. This is a very exciting time for Victorian writers and writing.



Just prior to this report being written we signed an agreement to administer writers' residencies at Rosebank Farm, a stone cottage situated near Hanging Rock about 75 minutes out of Melbourne. This will allow for stays of between a weekend and two months developing writing/artistic projects.

We have also entered into a partnership with the State Library to send writers to run workshops and do readings at 18 libraries throughout Victoria in 2009 and 2010.

With an actively engaged Committee of Management, a terrific, inspiring creative staff, an involved membership and a highly supportive government funding bodies and writing community, I expect 2009 to be a particularly exciting year for the Centre. The opening of the CBWI will provide opportunities to further broaden our range of activities, and terrific opportunities for new synergies and partnerships with the wider literary and cultural communities.

**Joel Becker**  
**Director/CEO**

## Achieving our goals

### **Provide quality information and referral services to Victorian writers**

The Victorian Writers' Centre is the leading provider of information about writing and publishing for writers at all stages of their professional development. Centre staff answers more than 100 mail, phone, fax and email requests a day – approximately 23,000 per year. The most common requests continue to be for information about writing and access to publishing, and associated issues such as copyright and contracts. We also respond to queries about membership to the Centre, its courses and services. The VWC acts as a portal into the writing community, often referring people to organisations such as the ASA, CAL, Arts Law Centre of Australia, as appropriate.

#### *Referrals*

The Centre is frequently approached by other organisations and institutions in the writing, publishing and education areas to refer and recommend professional writers and editors for work.

#### *Publications*

*Victorian Writer* is the magazine produced by the Centre and distributed to members. The magazine is also distributed to libraries, tertiary writing courses, community arts officers and arts agencies. *Victorian Writer* was published ten times in 2008, with a mid-year 'blockbuster' issue (32 pages) and a combined December-January edition. The feature articles cover a range of topical and well-researched issues of interest to the writing community. In addition there are regular features on opportunities and competitions for writers, books on writing and industry news.

The VWC sells more than 120 copies a year of *the Australian Writers Marketplace*, as well as approximately 30 other writers' reference books.

The *VWC Calendar of Events* was published for the first time as an annual program booklet, with 17,000 copies printed. It was inserted in the Readings Books & Music Monthly, as well as *Victorian Writer*. It is also widely distributed to businesses, PWE and Creative Writing course, and other relevant organisations.

#### *Website*

A major improvement in the VWC website was the building of a new website by Inventive Labs. It went live in late October 2008. The response to the website (and new web address: [www.vwc.org.au](http://www.vwc.org.au)) was immediate, and very positive. Coupled with links provided by the weekly e-bulletin, our usage level has increased substantially, and we expect that to build through 2009.

#### *Manuscript Assessment Service*

The Centre provides a professional manuscript assessment service for fiction, poetry, non-fiction, children's and YA manuscripts. Assessors are leading authors and editors with publishing records and current knowledge of the industry. The service aims to give writers constructive feedback on their manuscript with a view to further development of their craft. When appropriate, assessors may suggest publishing opportunities.

After two years of exceptional growth in the assessment service in 2006 and 2007, 2008 saw figures in line with 2007, with nearly \$30,000 of revenue from assessments.

#### *Library*

The Centre's library provides a specialised resource for members. The well-resourced library comprises Australian fiction, poetry, reference books and trade and information newsletters from associated organisations and businesses. The Centre also subscribes to a range of literary journals and magazines which provide an excellent resource for writers researching publication opportunities. Part of the growth of the library is from donations of people's collections, as well as members donating copies of their publications. As well as thanking the donors, we note our gratitude to Pam Davison, who catalogues and organises the Library on a voluntary basis. In 2008, Pam catalogued the library.

#### *Facilities and Services*

The Centre provides a number of facilities to members at discount rates. These include discounted rates on grey-scale and full-colour photocopying, as well as access to rooms at the VWC and Glenfern. Members of the VWC also receive discounts from supporting businesses.

During 2008, the space was used by a number of outside organisations, including Melbourne Poets Union, Arts Industry Council, Asian Arts, Australia Council, Emerging Writers' Festival Board..

Members and non-members use the Library, the Space and Glenfern for magazine and book launches, readings, and play readings and workshopping. Numerous writing groups use the Library for regular meetings.

**Support and provide resources for Victorian writers in their creative and professional development**

The VWC delivers a high quality program of workshops, seminars and master classes to support the professional development of new, emerging and established writers. The program is delivered by leading authors, editors and professionals from the industry. The VWC develops the program in response to feedback from our membership and to watching developing trends in the marketplace. The Centre staff and Committee are in touch with current trends and developments in the industry and attempt to ensure that the program reflects topical issues and information.

The program increased by more than 15 percent during 2008.

During 2008, the Victorian Writers' Centre hosted approximately 200 events, including the following writers, publishers, editors and industry experts:

- Adrian Hyland
- Alex Broun
- Alexis Wright
- alicia sometimes
- Ally Blake
- Andrea Goldsmith
- Andy Griffiths
- Anna MacDonald
- Ann Blainey
- Anne Gracie
- Anne McGravie
- Arnold Zable
- Aviva Tuffield
- Barry Scott
- Berni M Janssen
- Briony Cosgrove
- Carolyn Fraser
- Cathy Greenfield
- Chris Roache
- Chris Thompson
- Clare Forster
- Craig Sherbourne
- Danielle Clode
- David Astle
- David Ryding
- Deborah Leiser-Moore
- Don Watson
- Dorothy Porter
- Emily Andersen
- Emily Clark
- Emma Schwarcz
- Emmett Stinson
- Enza Gandolfo
- Euan Mitchell
- Fiona Tuomy
- Foong Ling Kong
- Gideon Haigh
- Graeme Kinross-Smith
- Graeme Orr
- Hannie Rayson
- Helen Healy
- Isolde Lueckenhausen
- James Turnbull
- Jane Sullivan
- Jarad Henry
- Jarad Henry
- Jeanne Haughton
- Jeff Sparrow
- Jeremy Fisher
- Jeremy Pudney
- Jill Blee
- Joel Becker
- John Marsden
- John Reeves
- Julian Meyrick
- Karen Tayleur
- Kerry Greenwood
- Kevin Brophy
- Kirsten Abbott
- Kirsty Murray
- Klare Lanson
- Kristin Henry
- Lee Kofman
- Lisa Dempster
- Louise Connor
- Lucy Susses
- Mandy Brett
- Mark Peel
- Mary Napier
- Maureen McCarthy
- Michael Gawenda
- Michael Williams
- Morag Fraser
- Motti Lerner
- Nic Pullen
- Nicolas Brasch
- Patti Miller
- Paul Mitchell
- Penni Russon
- Penny Hueston
- Peter Bakowski
- Rachel Berger
- Robin Bowles
- Rochelle Jackson
- Rosemary Cameron
- Ross McMullin
- Ross Mueller
- Russ Radcliffe

- Sarah L'Estrange
- Sarah Myles
- Sean Williams
- Shane Maloney
- Shelia Drummond
- Sophy Williams
- Steve Grimwade
- Susan Gillett
- Susan Keogh
- Teresa Bell
- Tiggy Johnson
- Tom Cho
- Virginia Lowe
- Zoe Dattner

In addition there were 10 book launches and readings, more than 40 meetings of writing groups, the Melbourne Poets Union held 10 monthly readings, the Director delivered 18 lectures or participated in sector forums, there were public information sessions for PWE (TAFE-based) and Creative Writing courses at Universities, and the Doris Leadbetter Melbourne Poetry Cup featured 40 readers.

During the year the Centre had ongoing partnerships with the National Trust (VIC), Melbourne Writers' Festival, the State Library of Victoria, Australian Poetry Centre, Society of Editors VIC, Chisholm Institute and Express Media.

Glenfern Writers' Centre is a key part of the services provided to Victorian writers in providing a space and a place to write.

#### **Promote Victorian writers and writing to wider audiences**

##### *Indigenous Literacy Day*

The Victorian Writers' Centre is proud to have presented a special event to raise awareness of Indigenous Literacy Day on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, at the State Library of Victoria. Alexis Wright, John Marsden, Adrian Hyland and Arnold Zable discussed the importance of literacy in their lives, as well as literacy issues within the Indigenous and broader communities.

##### *Regional*

The VWC continues to support regional writing groups and festivals through a regional workshop fund. Writing groups and regional festivals are encouraged to apply. Many of the workshops are requested by the groups themselves, and the Centre offers support to assist the groups in selecting appropriate tutors. Approximately \$10,000 was spent assisting these activities.

At the same time, the VWC is conscious of our brief to serve writers throughout Victoria is

difficult to fully achieve, and ensures that there is a representative of regional Victoria on the Committee of Management. Much effort has gone toward developing strategies to further assist communities outside Melbourne metropolitan, and we anticipate the government's commitment toward a Victorian Centre for Books Writing & Ideas will help to improve accessibility for our regional members and the broader regional writing community.

#### ***Member achievements***

A column listing member achievements appears in Victorian Writer each month. The range of member successes is as varied as the membership itself and covers publication of books by mainstream publishers, publication in literary journals and magazines, major awards and prizes, grants from funding bodies and prizes in smaller competitions. The Centre is proud to acknowledge the successes of members and sees this as a way of encouraging new writers to persevere with their writing careers. We also acknowledge that success is achieved in many ways, not all of them resulting in publication or winning a competition. For some the achievement can be simply finishing a project, or getting an idea expressed successfully in written form.

#### **Maintain and consolidate a sustainable and effective organisational and management structure**

The Victorian Writers' Centre has an experienced, skilled staff, with all employees, with the exception of Jacquelin Low, having been with the Centre for from 3 to seven years. It has a structure which allows for growth and development of staff, as the organisation grows. Each staff member has clear position descriptions which are reviewed on a regular basis.

The Committee of Management has a handbook with detailed policies of the organisation, which are reviewed on a regular basis.

#### ***Membership statistics***

The membership details at December 31 2008 were as follows:

Full:	1203
Concession:	738
Regional:	429
Organisational	34
Overseas	10
Corporate	31
Complimentary	141
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2586</b>

## **About the VWC Committee of Management**

### ***Chris Thompson, Chair***

Chris Thompson is a writer, director, teacher and artistic director. He was Artistic Director at St Martins Youth Arts Centre in Melbourne from 1988 to 1996, and a founding member of the Artistic Directorate of HotHouse Theatre (a regional theatre company based in Albury/Wodonga) from 1996 to 2002. Chris has also been Artistic Director of MUDfest: the Melbourne Uni Student Arts Festival, and in 2003 was Interim Artistic Director of Union House Theatre, the Melbourne Uni Student Theatre Company. Appointed to Committee of Management in 2005. Chair since 2005. Current term ends 2009.

### ***Fran Madigan, Deputy Chair***

Fran has extensive experience in the tourism and arts industry, both nationally and internationally. Among her achievements are management of the production of State for the Arts, a guide to arts, culture and heritage in Victoria; and development of a cultural tourism strategy for Victoria. Fran has served on numerous boards in the arts sector, including Public Galleries Association of Victoria, Polyglot Puppet Theatre, and various boards and panels for Arts Victoria. She has a Graduate Diploma in Publishing & Editing from RMIT and a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management from VCA, University of Melbourne. Joined Committee of Management in 2004. Current term ends 2010.

### ***Joel Plotnek, Treasurer***

Joel is a Certified Practising Accountant with a strong background in the not-for-profit sector. He is CEO of the Property Management division of the Churches of Christ (Victoria). Joined Committee of Management in 2003. Current term ends 2009.

### ***Isolde Lueckenhausen, Secretary & Public Officer***

Isolde Lueckenhausen is a lawyer at TressCox Lawyers, specialising in media, intellectual property and entertainment law. She is also a presenter on 3CR radio, on the Board of the International Women's Development Agency Foundation, and a volunteer at the Women's Legal Service of Victoria. Joined Committee of Management in 2008. Current term ends 2010.

### ***Annie O'Hanlon***

Annie has a background in theatre, and has been the Australian Writers' Guild Victorian officer manager. Joined Committee of Management in 2006. Current term ends 2010.

### ***Ian Robinson***

Ian Robinson was educated at the University of Melbourne where he graduated with honours in Philosophy. Subsequently he has been a tutor in Philosophy at the University of Melbourne, a lecturer in Philosophy of Education at Coburg Teachers' College, leader of the Curriculum Project Team (Primary) for the Victorian Ministry of Education and Manager of the Music and Writing Department at Chisholm Institute where he currently teaches part-time. He has been editor of *Farrago*, *MUM*, *National U*, *Chalkface* and the *Australian Rationalist*, and written many articles and books. His fantasy story "The Crypt of Fleeting Hope" was shortlisted for the 1996 Aurealis Awards. He has acted in and directed a number of plays at La Mama and the Pram Factory theatres in Melbourne, served as president of the Melbourne Writers' Theatre and was theatre critic for the *National Times*. Joined Committee of Management in 2007. Current term ends 2009.

### ***Jill Blee***

Jill Blee is an Honorary Research Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, and she has a BA and an MA in history from Macquarie University, a Master of Arts in writing from the University of Western Sydney, and a PhD in history from the University of Ballarat. Jill tutors and lectures in the Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Ballarat and also teaches novel writing at CAE in Melbourne, and novel writing and writing histories at Gordon TAFE in Geelong. Since returning to Ballarat in 1999 Jill has been actively involved in promoting writing in the region and she is chairperson of the Ballarat Writing Council. Joined Committee of Management in 2006. Current term ends 2010.

### ***Eddie Creaney***

Eddie Creaney has been a long-time member and volunteer for the VWC. He has also served on the Board of the Melbourne Poets Union. In his working life he has been a senior financial officer. Joined Committee of Management November 2008. Current term ends 2010.

