



**WRITERS**  
VICTORIA

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All about writers

**Annual Report 2020**

# About Writers Victoria

Writers Victoria is all about writing.

Since 1989, Writers Victoria has been a leading provider of information, resources and skill development for our members and the broader writing community.

With over 2,500 members, we are the largest organisation supporting Victorian writers, and also the largest employer of writers in the state.

Our diverse annual program continues to deliver targeted professional development and support in response to the needs of our members and participants from all over Victoria (and beyond).

## Our Purpose

Writers Victoria supports and connects writers at all stages of their development.

## 2020 at a glance:

\$992,581	Annual turnover
\$149,354	Operating surplus (before depreciation)
\$145,347	Net surplus (after depreciation)
32	Volunteers worked with us
150	Writers and industry professionals worked with us
300	Employment opportunities provided for writers
2,686	Members (at 31 Dec 2020)
88	Workshops, seminars and events
1,292	Attendances

# From our patron

The Covid pandemic has impacted every single one of us, and every single community in Australia. Writers, of course, have not been exempt. I was struck by how many people said to me over 2020, "Well, at least the lockdown won't affect you so very much; you're a writer and used to solitude." The reality is that though we may work alone at our desk, the pandemic and the lockdown revealed to us how dependent we are on the friendship and communication, the good cheer and gentle argument, and of the sharing of ideas and thoughts and fears, with fellow writers. And of course, we all have families and friends and partners and children who have been impacted in different ways by the pandemic.

The stubborn refusal to allow many writers and artists access to JobKeeper had severe financial repercussions for many of our members. I think it important to acknowledge how difficult this last year has been for so many people, and to assure members that all of us here at Writers Victoria are keenly aware of how central the advocacy of Victorian writers is for this organisation.

I also want to acknowledge the terrific work that Writers Victoria did in maintaining an on-line presence for the organisation, including maintaining the running of workshops and seminars, and in providing writers the resources and information needed to navigate the economic and existential effects of the pandemic. I want to thank the CEO, the Chairperson and the board, and every single staff member for their dedication and commitment. I am very proud to be a patron of Writers Victoria. And as a Victorian writer I am grateful for the work everyone has done and keeps doing.

It's been a pleasure to get acquainted with Lucy Hamilton, the new CEO of the organisation. I want to say a big thank you to the departing CEO, Angela Savage, and thank her for the diligence, patience and enthusiasm with which she approached that role. Lucy has already knocked me over by with her energy, her clarity and her experience, and I am very much looking forward to working with her.

I want to make clear my thanks to every single member. As I have expressed above, this has not been an easy year for many of us, financially and emotionally. That you continue to support the organisation is an enormous gift. Please know it is appreciated.

## Christos Tsiolkas

# Chair's report

What a year it has been to be the Chair of Writers Victoria. While throughout 2020 we were once again reminded of the fragility of the world and our place within it, I hope that your heart was warmed, as mine was, by the way that our writing community rallied together and held strong in the face of upheaval and adversity. Although many organisations have had to cease programming, let staff go, or even close their doors, we have been fortunate enough to be able to endure this year with flexibility and optimism.

It has been my privilege to sit alongside the Board and staff at Writers Victoria as over 50% of our programs and offerings were quickly and expertly brought online, to look excitedly toward the future with our new CEO Lucy Hamilton and to deliver a new Strategic Plan, seeing us into the next three years – supporting and connecting writers at all stages of their development. In addition, our Governance SubCommittee has been working tirelessly to make sure that Writers Victoria's policies are where we, as an organisation and as a society, expect them to be; the Finance SubCommittee has made sure that during all the uncertainty of this global pandemic, we have remained financially strong; and our Membership SubCommittee has been focussing on how we can deliver a better organisation to those for whom we are working: you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many who make this organisation possible. The incredible and committed staff of Writers Victoria have been passionate and positive in their work. I would like to say thank you to their previous Director Angela Savage, who we said goodbye to in September, for her leadership. Thank you also to previous Chair, Nic Brasch and my absolute gratitude to fellow Board members Amy Maddison (Deputy Chair), Peter Hill (Secretary), Victor Sekulov (Treasurer), Donata Carrazza, Abi Chellapen, Yasmin Naghavi, Bryan Keon-Cohen, Sharon Mullins and Melanie Costello, who have all given an extraordinary amount of time and knowledge on a voluntary basis. While we have not been able to have our volunteers with us, this year, we can't wait to welcome you back with us and thank you so much for sticking with us! Thank you also to the tutors, who offer incredible knowledge and have had to really be flexible during this unpredictable time. To the departments and organisations who have continued to support us, you can't underestimate the value of your support. You are truly changing lives.

But most importantly, on behalf of the Board and staff at Writers Victoria, I thank you, the members, for the encouragement you have shown us, through your continued financial membership and backing in our Subscriberthon, without which we could never bring you the services and programs you want and love. It is because of you that we are able to continue to be the largest employer of writers in Victoria and because of you, that we can pursue our vision of a diverse and flourishing writing community across Victoria, one where writers are supported and valued.

**Noe Harsel**

# CEO's report

For 2020, Writers Victoria set our annual theme as 'Focus'. In late 2019, it seemed like a playful spin on the idea of 20/20 vision, a writerly way to look at the year ahead. Of course, March 2020 reframed this view and the concept of 'Focus' changed dramatically. Many could no longer focus on their writing, others found renewed focus. For many, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic focussed our priorities.

I joined the organisation in October 2020 and was excited to join a team that had so effectively adapted to the circumstances of the times, while still remaining focussed on the organisation's key goals and values.

In early 2020, we successfully moved all our face-to-face workshops and events online, and in doing so were not only able to deliver our program safely, but we were able to reach a wider audience that had previously been excluded from in-person and city-based events. We saw surges in the take up of our manuscript assessment and other mentorship services. We continued to deliver a range of specialist programs remotely, including the Writeability and Publishability programs.

The team also responded to the pandemic with some COVID-specific initiatives. In April, knowing writers needed something on which to focus, we repeated our April Flash Fiction challenge from our 30th birthday year, receiving over 5,000 entries. With VALID, we ran the Stories from Home weekly writing prompts. Our Chair, Noe Harsel, ran Live Write, a twice weekly online writing group, allowing writers in our community to remain connected through a time of isolation. Towards the end of the year, Maria Tumarkin delivered a powerful, timely, thought-changing and focussed address for the State of the (Writing) Nation in November. If you haven't seen it I urge you to go and watch it on [The Wheeler Centre website](#).

Our studio residencies were, by their very nature, unable to move online, and were closed from March 2020 until February 2021. While at the time of writing the studios have reopened, lola Mathews is retiring. After leading the redevelopment of Glenfern in the early 2000s, and managing the studios for us since they opened in 2006, lola is moving on in 2021 and we thank her for everything she has done for Glenfern and the wider Writers Victoria community.

We farewelled a number of staff throughout the year. We said goodbye to our Digital Communications Officer Leah Jing McIntosh in February, to Andy Jackson, our Writeability Project Officer in March, and to Emma Mackenzie, our Membership Officer and Program Admin Officer in April. Jax Jacki Brown, our Publishability Officer, finished with us at the end of 2020. And of course Angela Savage, the previous Director, finished up her three-year contract with us in September 2020.

We welcomed Sarah Hollingsworth as Marketing & Communications Manager and Latifa Elmriini as our Admin Officer in February 2021. In October, thanks to some COVID-relief funds, we were able to hire two new casual positions, and welcomed Jessica

Obersby and Diem Nguyen as Online Learning Administrators. Kirsten Krauth is now editing 'The Victorian Writer' on a freelance basis.

I want to thank all of our staff and volunteers throughout the year for your hard work, dedication, flexibility and passion. I also want to thank the Board of Directors for their commitment and professional stewardship of the organisation through this particularly challenging time.

## Lucy Hamilton



PHOTOS L TO R: ANNE GRACIE PRESENTING THE 'BREAKING INTO THE US MARKET' WORKSHOP; WRITERS VICTORIA STAFF IN A ZOOM MEETING; JAN CARSON PRESENTING 'THE CRAFT OF SHORT FICTION' WORKSHOP, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL

# The Writers Victoria team

## STAFF

Angela Savage	Director (until September)
Lucy Hamilton	CEO (from October)
Sarah Hollingsworth	Marketing and Communications Manager (from February)
Kate Cuthbert	Program Manager
Lyndel Caffrey	Writeability Program Manager
Flora Lun	Accountant
Deanne Sheldon-Collins	Program Officer/Competitions Officer
Emma Mackenzie	Membership Officer/Program Admin Officer (until April)
Frances Terrett	Membership and Program Officer
Latifa Elmriini	Program Admin Officer (from February)
Jax Jacki Brown	Publishability Project Officer
Andy Jackson	Writeability Project Officer (until March)
Leah Jing McIntosh	Digital Communications Officer (until March)
Diem Nguyen	Online Learning Administrator (from October)
Jess Obersby	Online Learning Administrator (from October)
Kirsten Krauth	The Victorian Writer Editor

## BOARD

Noè Harsel	Chairperson (since May), Deputy Chairperson (until May)
Nicolas Brasch	Chairperson (until May)
Peter Hill	Secretary
Victor Sekulov	Treasurer
Amy Maddison	Deputy Chairperson (since May, Member (Until May))
Donna Carrazza	Member (until May)
Abi Chellapen	Member (until May)
Bryan Keon-Cohen	Member
Yasmin Naghavi	Member (since May)
Sharon Mullins	Member (since June)
Mel Costello	Member (from October), Observer (until October)

## PATRON

Christos Tsiolkas

## LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERS

Arnold Zable	Eddie Creaney	Judith Rodriguez
Barbara Giles	Iola Mathews	Kevin Brophy
Bev Roberts	Isolde Lueckenhausen	Kris Hemensley
Christine McKenzie	Joan Sellar	Noel Turnbull
Chris Thompson	Joel Becker	Sue Penhall
Chris Wallace-Crabbe	Joyce Lee	

## INTERNS

None in 2020 due to COVID-19

## REGIONAL AMBASSADORS

Bianca Stapleton – Campaspe	Rebecca Fletcher – Ballarat
Gail Chrisfield – Surf Coast	Robyn Black – Shepparton
Maree Jones – Sunraysia	Vicky Daddo – Gippsland
Nola Wernicke – Murrindindi	

## VOLUNTEERS

Sue Penhall – Office Volunteer  
Rhiannon Lloyd – Librarian  
Iola Mathews – Glenfern Artist Liaison  
Fiona Wood – Glenfern Deputy Artist Liaison  
Chloe Alexander – Brag List

Amelia Sosa Haby  
Amy Adeney  
Anna Gould  
Caitlin Cleghorn  
Cath James  
Christy Tan  
Dinithi Perera  
Edna Truong  
Ellen O'Brien  
Else Fitzgerald  
Emily Gregg

Ellen O'Brien  
Giulia Fabris  
Helen Haloulos  
Ingrid Laguna  
Jacinta Richards  
Jessica Trevethan  
Jennie Fraine  
Katherine Russell  
Katy Hocking  
Laura Bovey  
Liz McCormick

Mary Powell  
Megan Payne  
Nikki Bielinski  
Nikki Sitch  
Pradhnya Tajne  
Sarah Giles  
Sharlene Kuruppuarachchi  
Stephanie Downing  
Susie Chong  
Tara Mitchell



PHOTOS L TO R: A WRITERS VICTORIA ZOOM BOARD MEETING; OUR 2020 SEASON 1 PROGRAM; DMETRI KAKMI PRESENTING 'READING FOR WRITERS: SPECULATIVE FICTION: THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE'

# Writers and Experts

In a very difficult year, Writers Victoria still managed to provide some 300 employment opportunities for 150 writers as tutors, mentors, manuscript assessors, guest speakers, judges, and writers, including (in alphabetical order):

Alaina Dean  
 Alan Carter  
 Alex Adsett  
 Alex Kelly  
 Alice Bishop  
 Alice Robinson  
 Alli Sinclair  
 Amanda Martin  
 Amanda Niehaus  
 Amra Pajalic  
 Amy Bodossian  
 Amy Suiter Clarke  
 Andrew Nette  
 Andy Jackson  
 Angela Meyer  
 Angela Savage  
 Anisa Nandaula  
 Anna Morgan  
 Anna Snoekstra  
 Annabel Smith  
 Anne Gracie  
 Anne-Marie Peard  
 Antoinette Holm  
 Ash Peplow Ball  
 Astrid Scholte  
 Bel Woods  
 Belinda Lyons-Lee  
 Bella Li

Bonny Cassidy  
 Carrie Tiffany  
 Cassandra White  
 Cate Kennedy  
 Chaille Bos  
 Chelsea Cassio  
 Chris McKenzie  
 Christos Tsiolkas  
 Claire Gaskin  
 Claire G Coleman  
 Clare Rhoden  
 Danielle Binks  
 Dave Warner  
 David Maney  
 Dianne Stubbins  
 Dmetri Kakmi  
 Earl Livings  
 Eliza Henry-Jones  
 Elizabeth Flux  
 Ellena Savage  
 Ellie Marney  
 Emma Cayley  
 Emma Viskic  
 Emily Bitto  
 Euan Mitchell  
 Eugen Bacon  
 Eve Dangerfield  
 Evelyn Araluen

Fiona Lowe  
 Gabrielle Want  
 Georgina Young  
 Heidi Everett  
 Helen Koehne  
 Helen Fitzgerald  
 Jackey Coyle  
 Jacqui Byron  
 Jane Godwin  
 Jean Bachoura  
 Jeff Sparrow  
 Jenny Hocking  
 Jessica Obersby  
 Jessica L. Wilkinson  
 Jessica Walton  
 Jessica White  
 Jillian Langhammer  
 Jock Serong  
 Jodi McAlister  
 Joel Martin  
 Josiane Behmorais  
 Julienne Van Loon  
 Justine Sless  
 Kaaron Warren  
 Kat Clarke  
 Kate Cuthbert  
 Kate Mildenhall  
 Kate Ryan

Katherine Smyrk  
Kathryn Heyman  
Katia Ariel  
Katya de Becerra  
Kelly Gardiner  
Kirstyn McDermott  
Koralý Dimitriatis  
Krissy Kneen  
Kristen Krauth  
Laurel Cohn  
Laurent Boulanger  
Laurie Steed  
Lee Kofman  
Liz Kemp  
Lorna Hendry  
Lucy Treloar  
Lyndel Caffrey  
Lynne Kelly  
Maria Griffin  
Maria Lewis  
Maria Tumarkin  
Marisa Wikramanayake  
Mary Fleming  
Maryrose Cuskelly  
Meg Vann  
Melanie Cheng  
Mia Walsch  
Michael Dunsford  
Michael Pryor  
Michael Pulsford  
Michael Robotham  
Michael Veitch  
Michelle Scott Tucker  
Natasha Agafonoff  
Nevo Zisin

Nicole Kelly  
Omar Sakr  
Patti Miller  
Paul McVeigh  
Paul Morgan  
PD Martin  
Penni Russon  
Penny Johnson  
Rachel Flynn  
Rachel Hennessy  
Rebecca Fraser  
Rjurik Davidson  
Robert Gott  
Robert Whalley  
Rosey Chang  
Roz Bellamy  
Ruth Claire  
Ruth McIver  
Sarah Asumadu  
Sarah Epstein  
Sarah Hollingsworth  
Sherryl Clarke  
Sian Prior  
Siobhan Cavanagh  
Siskone Msimang  
Sonja Murphy  
Sophie Gonzales  
Spiri Tsintziras  
Tania Chandler  
Terry Jaensch  
Thuy On  
Tony Birch  
Wai Chim  
Will Kostakis

# Our program

## WORKSHOPS AND COURSES, Kate Cuthbert

Like much of the art sector, Writers Victoria moved to an online model when meeting in person became impossible. We began our year with a fresh new program, building on existing relationships, forging new partnerships, and working to create an environment of inclusion for writers of all levels, backgrounds, foci, and genres. We ran a special Reading for Writers series focusing on Speculative Fiction and invited five writers, including Maria Lewis, Claire G Coleman, and Dmetri Kakmi to talk to foundational speculative fiction texts and their influence. Our successful YA Day ran again, this time providing two streams: one for readers and one for writers. As we kicked off Summer School in January, we took it back to basics, focusing on narrative building blocks with workshops on dialogue, setting, conflict, and character along with workshops for poets and junior fiction writers.

In March, when it became clear we would no longer be able to meet in-person, we took the workshops online, developing a new structure that took into account three key priorities: information, execution, and feedback. Online delivery came with its own challenges, including screen fatigue, lack of experience, and technological difficulties. However, our workshop tutors responded with aplomb, and we ran workshops covering historical fiction, true crime, page-turners, biography, poetry, surrealism, and screenwriting. We also delved into the creative life, providing workshops on creative resilience, writing careers at any age, and cultivating career abundance. Moving our online platform from GoTo to Zoom made an enormous difference to the user experience, and by the end of the year, we had many comments from participants about how easy and enjoyable the online experience was. After Season One's mid-season shift to online, we approached Season Two as a potential face-to-face program, however it became clear by June that we would be running everything online, and we moved to an entirely online season two.

To complement our clinics which ran over five months, we expanded our workshops to include more series, weekends, and long-courses to provide opportunities for deeper explorations, including two mini-masterclasses in Crime Writing and Memoir, a self-publishing bootcamp, and a Refine Your Memoir long course. Our clinics themselves continue to be very popular and we offered our regular clinics for short story, poetry, and creative non-fiction, and supplemented with clinics on crime writing, memoir, and children's books.

We launched the 'Lunchtime Bites' series in 2019 providing a key membership benefit. In 2020, we expanded this series of one-hour seminars into 'Evening Appetisers', running similar programming, but in the early evening to increase accessibility. Tutors for these seminars come from staff, with Angela Savage running 'Write Here, Write Now', Kate Cuthbert running 'The Power of the Verb' and Sarah Hollingsworth running 'Being Smart with your Social Media'.

In order to support our community beyond creative development, we also launched

Live Write, a half-hour session run twice a week where writers could join others and spend half an hour writing together. Hosted by Writers Victoria Board Chair, Noë Harsel, Live Write provides companionship, accountability, and a focused time for writing.

Finally, we continued to seek out partnerships with other organisations in the literary space, partnering with Australian Poetry, The YA Room, Emerging Writers Festival, and continued our very successful Melbourne Writers Festival workshop program offering four online Masterclasses. We also supported community organisations as they worked to support their community, providing programming for Manningham and Banyule Library Services. We have a longstanding partnership with the City of Casey, and while much of our planned workshops had to be postponed, we look forward to running them in 2021.

## REGIONAL

As part our regional outreach program, Writers Victoria targeted three festivals for extended funding to supplement our ongoing Grace Marion Wilson small grant program.

In making this decision, we look at a number of factors, including location, previous support, and opportunities. This year, we chose the Art Is Festival in Horsham, Apollo Bay Word Fest, and Stories of Influence in Lake Tyers. Other festivals were eligible through the Grace Marion Wilson small grants program.

Due to COVID, both Art Is and Word Fest shifted to online programming, supported by Writers Victoria. Stories of Influence chose to postpone their festival instead. Writers Victoria was able to provide professional authors and industry experts to these festivals, and provided moderators and technical and programming support. In addition, the small regional grants program funded by the Grace Marion Wilson Trust also supported author panels, a school and library collaboration for writing by children, an industry panel on how to get published, and several writing workshops, including ekphrasis, personal essay, memoir, and film writing. Grants were awarded to arts/writers groups in Castlemaine, Moorabool, Colac-Otway, Baw Baw, Latrobe City (2), the Surf Coast, Shepparton, Bendigo and Lake Tyers. These regional and rural grants continue to be crucial to the Writers Victoria rural strategy to create opportunities for writers seeking cultural experiences and professional development. One participant commented, "We have little opportunity to get together to enjoy art, it motivates locals to write and develop themselves. This has only become more important in current times... It is very important for a regional community to have events like this. The organisers and their funders should be very proud."

## WRITEABILITY & PUBLISHABILITY, Lyndel Caffrey

Writeability again had staff changes this year, with Lyndel Caffrey remaining Writeability Program Manager but moving down to three days a week, and Andy Jackson leaving the program.

Our ninth annual Writeability Fellowships, funded by the Grace Marion Wilson Trust and an anonymous donor, were managed by Lyndel this year, and provided seven writers with disability tailored professional development support. The 2020 Writeability Fellows were David Maney, Binh Pham, Tim Williams, Artemis Munoz and Christine Davey White, with Ruby Hillsmith receiving the Poetry Fellowship, and Janet Hildebrand receiving the Regional Fellowship, provided through regional funds reallocated due to COVID-19.

This year, Tim William's mentor Tim Hobart kindly offered to donate his mentorship fee back to the fellowship program – in agreement with Tim Hobart, we have used this fee to provide Tim Williams with some commissioning opportunities.

2020 saw two more Writeability alumni receive book contracts – these were 2 of our 4 Publishability Fellows – Fiona Murphy ('The Shape of Sound', Text) and Heidi Everett ('My Friend Fox', Ultimo Press).

The two-year Publishability program, a collaboration with Arts Access Victoria, has now ended. In addition to the fellowships, the Publishability OwnVoices Toolkit is now complete, along with the new Publishability: Disability Equality training program, which was presented to a capacity audience of NSW publishers and editors in September. Jax Jacki Brown, who led the program, finished up with us at the end of 2020.

The Writeability Goes Regional and Online (WGRO) Program, which was supported by the Australian Government through their Catalyst program, was extended again due to COVID but finished during the year. The final session was held as a salon at Mildura for the Mallee Writeability group. Seven of the eight WGRO mentors as well as Moe Writeability volunteer facilitator Jess Obersby convened the second Local Mentors' Round Table, where they discussed their experiences of WGRO and provided feedback on the program. Our film-making project interviewing six disabled writers, which was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, is now at editing stage.

We applied to City of Melbourne and received funding for a two year program, Storming the City, which returns Writeability to its city-based roots. Storming the City 2021-22 will train and provide opportunities for a leadership cohort of disabled writers in 2021, and set up local writers groups for disabled writers at two City Libraries in 2022.

Eight Writeability authors were invited to publish in an online anthology in the May Writeability newsletter. We also commissioned the work of authors for the Writers Victoria website and 'The Victorian Writer' Magazine, as well as work for an upcoming online anthology, "Catalyst". Altogether, across Writeability and Publishability we commissioned 19 disabled writers.

In partnership with VALID, Writeability developed the Stories From Home project (May-August) – weekly responses to prompts modelled on Writers' Victoria's annual flash fiction challenge, to provide disabled writers with the opportunity to share their writing online. VALID published all the writing submitted, while Writers Victoria published a selection on our website. We also continued to work with VALID on the Dulcie Stone Short Story Competition for writers with an intellectual disability. Lyndel was part of

the judging panel and spoke at the Awards Ceremony. Mallee Writeability writer Luke Hudson won an award for his writing. Writeability staff also attended VALID's Having a Say Conference in February.

In December we collaborated with Brotherhood of Saint Laurence for International Day of People with Disability 2020, to present a writing workshop by Fiona Murphy, a poetry panel including Andy Jackson, Ruby Hillsmith, Makayla-May Brinkley and Gemma Mahadeo, and commissioned seven authors to blog for the Brotherhood of Saint Laurence and Writers Victoria websites.

In late 2020 we commenced consultancy for Varuna – The Writers House as they work to develop programs for disabled writers and improve access.

We continued to publicise potential NDIS funded services, and receive regular queries and are signing up writers for membership, mentorships, workshops or manuscript assessments via their NDIS funds.

## **BUSINESS WRITING**

Our Business Writing program was paused in 2020.

# Services

## MANUSCRIPT ASSESSMENTS, Latifa Elmrini

In 2020, 73 writers booked a total of 83 assessments, 12 of which were followed by a post-assessment consultation. These numbers reflect the continuing popularity of the manuscript assessment service.

One writer said of the service, "I have found the assessment absolutely fascinating reading! I have so wanted people to reflect on my writing but when people say 'nice' things about it, I am not sure whether they are wanting to please me or whether they really mean it ... an objective view is what I have been craving. Now I understand so much more about the way I have written this, my strengths and the techniques I need to work on."

## MENTORING

A total of 51 mentorships were booked in 2020, a number on par with the 55 of the previous year. The service continues to offer writers both short-term and long-term options – of these bookings, 22 were one-time or introductory sessions and 29 were ongoing mentorships. This suggests that our mentorships continue to build positive relationships, providing writers with an avenue for ongoing advice and support from industry professionals.

## STUDIOS

In partnership with the National Trust, Writers Victoria continues to manage nine Writers' Studios at the historic homestead of Glenfern in East St Kilda and two Cells for Writers at Old Melbourne Gaol. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all our studios were unfortunately closed from March 2020.

### GLENFERN RESIDENTS

Jim McIntyre	Isabel Robinson
Stephen Sholl	Tali Lavi
Georgina Banks	Jane Leonard
Anna Sublet	Tanya Milne
Bram Presser	Rose Lang
Melissa Manning	Tim Byrne

### CELLS FOR WRITERS RESIDENTS

N/A

## LIBRARY

The Writers Victoria library provides a quiet place for members to read, research and write. Members can use the library's collection of literary journals, newsletters, anthologies, prize-winners and books on the craft of writing. Pamphlets advertising competitions, awards, places to write and writing services are on display. The library also provides members with a space to showcase their own publications on our members' bookshelf. In 2020, our library was closed from March, though we look forward to it reopening in 2021.

## COMPETITIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS, Deanne Sheldon-Collins

Public health and travel restrictions led to a number of competitions and fellowships being postponed in 2020.

The Neilma Sidney Myer Literary Travel Fund opened for its sixth round early in the year but, in consultation with our partner the Myer Foundation, we closed applications and delayed the round to 2021. This grants program supports the travel projects of emerging, midcareer, and established Australian writers and literary sector workers; when travel projects became unfeasible in 2020, it was clear that a postponed funding period would be more in the interests of community safety. Despite this delay, the Travel Fund – now in its fourth year – continues to provide support to the Australian literary community. Most of the previous rounds' recipients were able to adapt or continue their proposed projects, and we anticipate a strong interest in Round 6 when it opens for applications in early 2021. Round 6 will focus on domestic travel, inviting applications for projects that pursue research and professional development within Australia.

As the Glenfern studios were temporarily closed through 2020, the Glenfern Fellowships for Emerging Writers were also postponed this year. Funding for these fellowships was instead put towards an increased number of 2020 Writeability Fellowships, to ensure that we were still supporting the work of emerging writers within the community.

Now in its twelfth year, our annual Grace Marion Wilson Emerging Writers Competition saw a noticeable increase in its number of entries. The Fiction category was judged by Alice Robinson, and Non-Fiction was judged by Elizabeth Flux. First place in Fiction went to Alaina Dean for her story 'The Mother'. Mary Fleming was awarded Runner Up for 'Danny Deserves a Medal', and High Commendations went to Anne Casey-Hardy for 'Bear Gully', Andrew Drummond for 'The Early Settlers', and Liz Walkenhorst for 'Corral'. Natasha Agafonoff's piece 'Sexy Nails' placed First in the Non-fiction category and also won the Best Regional Writer Prize. Maria Griffin received Runner Up for 'The Pause Between Breath', and High Commendations were awarded to Cathy Koning for 'Becoming Normal', Charlie Scott for 'Carrying On', and Siobhan Kavanagh for 'Freedom of Mind'.

Lance Richardson (NSW/USA) won the 2020 Hazel Rowley Literary Fellowship for his proposed biography of writer, naturalist, and Zen Buddhist, Peter Matthiessen. The

Fellowship, now in its ninth year, awards \$15,000 to a writer working on a biography project and was judged by Jenny Hocking, Jeff Sparrow, Della Rowley, and Lynn Buchanan. In 2020, the judges also gave a Highly Commended Award of \$5,000 to Gabrielle Carey for her project on writer Elizabeth von Arnim. The winners were selected from a shortlist of nine applications from across Australia.

Writers Victoria also continued our partnership with the Deborah Cass Prize for early-career writers from migrant backgrounds. Now in its sixth year, the prize awards an unpublished writer \$3,000 plus a mentorship and an introduction to a publisher. Anith Mukherjee won the 2020 Prize for his story 'I Am Full Of Love'. Judges Melanie Cheng, Lee Kofman, and Sisonke Msimang also awarded two runners up, who each received \$1,000: Dasha Maiorova for an extract from her novel 'Birch', and Sahib Nazari for his story 'Alone Together'. The winners were announced at an online ceremony with speakers Rafeif Ismail (a previous winner of the prize), Lee Kofman, Philippe Sands, and Elly Varrenti.

Despite postponements and restrictions, 2020 was a year of positive outcomes across our grants, competitions, and fellowships.

## **MEMBERS, Frances Terrett**

Writers Victoria has the largest number of individual members of any writing organisation in Victoria. As always, we are grateful to the members who joined, renewed, donated and supported us in 2020; particularly during what was an unexpectedly challenging year for so many people.

The year began with devastating bushfires still raging in Victoria and across the country. To support the hard work of volunteer firefighters, Writers Victoria participated in January's bushfire auction fundraiser #AuthorsForFiries. Our offer was a free membership plus fifteen back issues of 'The Victorian Writer' magazine for the highest bidder. We extended the offer to the top two bidders and raised \$500.

With our thirtieth anniversary having been celebrated in October 2019, we continued to commemorate this key milestone in 2020. We curated a series of back issue bundles of 'The Victorian Writer' to give away during the year through our eNews competitions. Dipping into the archives of 'The Victorian Writer' highlighted the breadth of content produced for our members and the depth of writing talent supported over many years by our magazine.

To create additional networking opportunities for our members, we launched First Friday Write Club, in the Writers Victoria Library on Level 3 of The Wheeler Centre. First Friday Write Club was designed to be a monthly event, delivering a two-hour themed write-a-thon for members wanting to engage in a focused writing session. The first session took place on Friday 6 March 2020. It was well attended and the participants found it very productive. Just two weeks later, the doors to The Wheeler Centre were closed and we found ourselves running the Writers Victoria office from home.

Running Memberships from home was best summed up by one word: boxes. Boxes of stationery taken home; boxes of books and magazine bundles, already scheduled for

future eNews editions, transported home; more boxes of books, delivered by publishers to the house, to sustain our eNews giveaways for members; boxes of new editions of 'The Victorian Writer'; and lots of boxes of books for Subscriberthon. Courtesy of a wide range of publishing houses, 225 books were gifted to our members, through Subscriberthon and our enews giveaways during 2020.

The year presented a challenging financial environment for many people and Writers Victoria experienced some drop in membership numbers during the year. We suspended our annual donation drive, mindful of the uncertain and tumultuous times people were experiencing.

Subscriberthon ran as usual in October. With great delight and gratitude, it was our biggest ever for new members and membership renewals. In recognition of the need to support each other and our communities, our First Prize (for one Metro member and for one Regional member) was a \$150 bookstore voucher plus a \$150 food providore voucher, with each of the winners choosing the vendors for their book and food vouchers.

## ADVOCACY

In addition to providing writers with hundreds of income generating opportunities, Writers Victoria continues to advocate for writers.

Much of this work includes active involvement with Arts Industry Council of Victoria and the National Writers Centre Network, and in 2020 involved many discussions with government at both a State and Federal level about the effects of COVID-19 for writers.

Among other advocacy efforts, Writers Victoria was among 120 arts organisations who signed an open letter 24 April Letter to Minister Paul Fletcher, published in the Guardian, encouraging support for the arts.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS, Sarah Hollingsworth

Writers Victoria is committed to promoting and showcasing the work of our members and community. 2020 saw the publication of over 90 writers and industry professionals across our digital and print channels. We featured writers at all stages and across genre, style and form in our magazine, 'The Victorian Writer', with themes of 'Tension', 'Writing Change', 'Sense and Sensibilities', 'Chrysalis' and 'Recovery'. The magazine was particularly important to us to keep publishing throughout lockdown, as a way of connecting with our members and promoting their work in a particularly strenuous time for creatives. On our website under 'The Writing Life', we published work from Writeability participants, a collaboration with VALID called 'Stories from Home: Writing Our Way Through the Pandemic', a collaboration with Creative Control to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability, interviews with authors, tutors for upcoming workshops, and members writing about their upcoming and recently released books. We communicated regularly with our members via our eNews, of which we sent 24 separate editions, and our broader community with monthly (12) newsletters throughout the year.

Following on from the overwhelming amount of positive feedback and participation in 2019's Flash Fiction, and entering our first lockdown of the COVID-19 outbreak, we ran the competition again to keep our community engaged and offer a creative outlet. #WVFlashFic21 was run throughout April, with a prompt posted every day on our social media accounts and via a Flash Fiction newsletter, with participants writing up to 30 words inspired by and/or using the prompt word. All of the words were themed around the 2020 theme 'Focus', which was extremely apt considering the aim of running the competition again. Daily winners were sent postcards from Writers Victoria staff with words of encouragement and quotes about writing, and an overall winner was awarded a free workshop of their choice from our program. The numbers speak for themselves: we received over 5,000 entries via Twitter and 1,047 entries via email – which is roughly 200 entries every day of the competition. This incredible participation displays the capacity for Writers Victoria to engage and inspire a community of writers far and wide, and fosters an enormous amount of goodwill in that community.

COVID-19 highlighted the importance of maximising our presence online across differing platforms, and saw us using our social media profiles as a way to reach our members and wider community. We grew our following on social media significantly over the year, gaining over 1,300 followers on Instagram, over 600 followers on Twitter, and almost 500 Facebook followers. Our increased rate of posting Writers Victoria news and announcements, workshop information, opportunities and competitions, among other content relevant to our members, kept our community engaged and informed, and proved a key point of connection between our organisation and the wider world. Our website remains central to our communications with members, and our use of the website for posting key announcements, updates, information on prizes and competitions, as well as providing reading and writing opportunities, was central to our marketing and communications efforts. The combination of our social media profiles and our website was an effective method of reaching our audience and ensuring we kept our community connected and informed throughout a challenging year.

# Treasurer's report

2020 provided unheard of challenges to Writers Victoria as it did the rest of the world. With such unpredictability both from a financial perspective and operationally the Board and Staff of Writers Victoria undertook significant reviews of activities and redeveloped its operational budget.

Part of that review resulting in all of our offering being moved online, and reducing the number of events that we organised. Our offices were closed and we could no longer take bookings or membership renewals either in person or via post. This had a significant impact on our earned income compared to 2019, as can be expected.

Support from both Federal and State governments must be warmly acknowledged and their various funding streams enabled Writers Vic to maintain operations and provide services to its members.

The Federal Government's Cash Flow Boost and the JobKeeper scheme allowed us to retain our full staff throughout the year, keeping them employed and allowing us to continue to support writers across Victoria at a time when many were turning to reading and writing as a comfort. We were successful with two grants to the Creative Victoria Strategic Investment Fund, a grant through Business Victoria, and one through the Australia Council's Adapt program. These allowed us to adjust our offerings online as well as build more offerings which will be launched in mid 2021, that will help to support earned income streams.

In addition, we were successful with applications for multi-year support from both the City of Melbourne and the City of Casey, to run professional development opportunities from 2021 onwards.

Operationally, our workshop, membership and business writing income saw declines through the year. Our manuscript and mentorship services did see an increase in the year, a service that was already largely operational remotely clearly finding an audience with writers during the pandemic. Expenditure was well managed, with concerted savings made in the areas of printing and postage and staff working diligently to keep expenses not only within budget, but below it in light of the circumstances of the year.

Writers Vic has reported a surplus of \$145,347 for 2020, after depreciation, which surpassed our budgetary expectations for the year. The 2020 accounts must of course be read with an understanding of the complex effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our financial sustainability is strong as we continue to manage our operations in a financially responsible manner. Cash holdings have increased to just under \$0.8M, noting a large number of programs have been held over and will commence post-COVID in 2021, thus reducing that balance as we run those funded programs.

The arts funding environment in Australia continues to be a challenging one, with

increasing demand for smaller funding pools. The long term effects of the pandemic on economic, financial, and social trends in the arts remain uncertain, but Writers Victoria has managed its strategic objectives to remain flexible to the circumstances in which it operates.

2021 will be another challenging year, though Writers Victoria is extremely well positioned to be the premier source of support for Writers in Victoria. Finally I wish to thank both the Staff and Board members for their efforts and contributions throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

**Victor Sekulov**



**WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED**

**A.B.N.18 268 487 576**

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2020**

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## BOARD'S REPORT

Your Board members present this report of Writers Victoria Incorporated for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

### BOARD MEMBERS

The names of Board of Management Members throughout the year and to the date of this report were:

Chairperson	Noe Harsel Since 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Chairperson	Nicolas Brasch Until 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Secretary	Peter Hill
Treasurer	Victor Sekulov
Member	Donata Carrazza Until 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Member	Abi Chellapen Until 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Member	Bryan Keon - Cohen
Member	Amy Maddison
Member	Yasmin Naghavi Since 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Member	Sharon Mullins Since 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Member	Mel Costello Since 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2020

### OBJECTIVE

Writers Victoria supports, connects and encourages writers at all stages of their development.

### STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES

- **Writers:** Provide writers with craft development, writing skills and industry knowledge.
- **Members:** Retain, grow and diversify our membership base.
- **Community:** Support writing communities across Victoria.
- **Industry:** Strengthen our profile and increase our contribution to the literary sector.
- **Operations:** Be an effective and sustainable organisation.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the entity during the financial year continued to be the provision of professional development opportunities to writers.

## SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

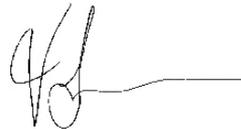
No significant changes occurred in the nature of this activity during the year.

## EVENTS DURING THE YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT TO YEAR END ( Covid -19 Pandemic )

The Covid 19 Pandemic has severely restricted Writers Victoria's operations during the year and continued to limit events being held after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions many planned activities have been postponed. No other matters have arisen since the end of the financial year that are significantly affected or may significantly affect the operation of the association, the results of the operations, or state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

## OPERATING RESULT

The surplus for the year amounted to \$145,347, The 2019 surplus (deficit) was (\$9,360).  
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board.



Date 7 April 2021

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Operating Revenue	2	666,560	981,248
Interest Received		7,461	12,699
Other Revenue		318,560	9,448
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>992,581</b>	<b>1,003,395</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Audit of Financial Report	3	3,000	3,000
Program Costs		151,983	329,719
Manuscript Services		63,712	55,180
Depreciation		4,007	9,779
'The Victorian Writer' Magazine Expenses		45,420	49,675
Licence Fee		8,097	31,788
Employment Benefit Expense (Salaries and on-costs)		488,782	429,108
Disadvantaged Writers Provision		4,328	0
Other Expenses		77,905	104,506
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>847,234</b>	<b>1,012,755</b>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) BEFORE INCOME TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY</b>	3	<b>145,347</b>	<b>(9,360)</b>
Income Tax		0	0
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY</b>		<b>145,347</b>	<b>(9,360)</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4	798,409	536,364
Trade and Other Receivables	5	124,572	5,849
Other Assets	7	6,178	10,975
Inventories	6	0	0
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>929,159</b>	<b>553,188</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Financial assets	8	0	0
Property, Plant & Equipment	9	321	4,328
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>321</b>	<b>4,328</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>929,480</b>	<b>557,516</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Membership in Advance (one-year)		44,280	46,859
Funding Received in Advance/Contract Liabilities	12	297,410	149,503
Workshops paid in Advance		21,137	14,509
Trade and Other Payables	10	132,203	75,574
Short-term Provisions Payable	11	27,575	23,794
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>522,605</b>	<b>310,539</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Diverse Writers Liability Carried Forward		48,500	33,500
Long-term Provisions Payable	11	4,148	3,189
Membership in Advance (two-year)		62,660	64,068
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>115,308</b>	<b>100,757</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>637,913</b>	<b>411,296</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>291,567</b>	<b>146,220</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves	15	31,000	21,000
Retained Earnings		260,567	125,220
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>291,567</b>	<b>146,220</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	General Reserve	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
<b>2018</b>			
<b>Balance at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>134,580</b>	<b>155,580</b>
<b>2019</b>			
Surplus (deficit) attributable to members	0	(9,360)	(9,360)
Transfer from General Reserve			
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>125,220</b>	<b>146,220</b>
<b>2020</b>			
Surplus (deficit) attributable to members	0	145,347	145,347
Transfer to/ from General Reserve	10,000	(10,000)	0
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>260,567</b>	<b>291,567</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipt of Grants inc GST		169,847	428,039
Receipts from Customers inc GST		257,962	341,118
Membership fees inc GST		166,229	174,683
Other Income including Advertising		5,561	12,750
Interest Received		7,461	12,699
Donations		4,328	3,723
Cash Flow Boost		81,732	0
Job Keeper		212,100	0
Vic Government Business Support		20,000	0
<b>Total Receipts</b>		925,220	973,012
Payments to Suppliers & Employees		(663,175)	(1,095,046)
<b>NET CASH GENERATED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>262,045</b>	<b>(122,034)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchases of property, plant and equipment		0	(1,608)
Proceeds from Sale of Assets		0	0
<b>NET CASH GENERATED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(1,608)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		<b>262,045</b>	<b>(123,642)</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year		536,364	660,006
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>798,409</b>	<b>536,364</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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The financial statements cover Writers Victoria Incorporated as a not-for-profit entity. It is an association incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. It is a not-for-profit income tax exempt charity; as such it is exempt from income tax.

### **NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

#### **Reporting basis and conventions**

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are 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**

##### **Revenue**

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

Revenue is recognised as the performance requirements are met in accordance with AASB15.

Grant Revenue is recognised as the Grant program is utilized or expended for programs that have designated performance requirements in accordance with AASB15. If the Grant has no performance requirements it is recognised under AASB1058.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### **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.

### **Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments**

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the group.

### **Key estimates – Impairment**

The entity assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the entity that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number a key estimates.

No impairment has been recognised in respect of this financial year.

### **Income Taxation**

The entity is endorsed by the Taxation Office as an Income Tax Exempt Charity. Therefore, no income tax is payable by the entity.

### **Leasehold Improvements and Plant and Equipment**

Leasehold Improvements and Plant and Equipment are carried at cost as the entity has adopted the Cost Model under AASB116 Property, Plant and Equipment or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. All assets are depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the assets to the entity.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of Leasehold Improvements and Plant and Equipment are depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Asset	Depreciation Rate	Method
Leasehold Improvements	10 %	Cost
Plant & Equipment	20-33%	Cost

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### **Financial Instruments**

#### **Recognition**

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

#### **Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss**

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management and within the requirements of AASB 139: Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

#### **Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at cost using the effective interest rate method.

#### **Held-to-maturity investments**

These investments have fixed maturities, and it is the entity's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the entity are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

#### **Available-for-sale financial assets**

Available-for-sale financial assets include any financial assets not included in the above categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value.

#### **Financial liabilities**

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

#### **Contract Liabilities/Funding Received in Advance**

Contract Liabilities represent Grant Funds and other revenue that has not been utilized or expended as per the Program requirements. In prior years this has been referred to as Funding Received in Advance.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### **Fair value**

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

### **Impairment**

At each reporting date, the entity assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

As a not-for-profit entity the value in use of an asset may be equivalent to the depreciated replacement cost of that asset when the future economic benefits of the asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and where the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits.

### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the entity 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.

### **Employee Benefits**

Provision is made for the entity'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, plus related on-costs. 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.

### **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 six months or less.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>NOTE 2 REVENUE – OPERATING</b>		
Membership	151,117	158,803
Grants Received – Other	47,435	353,347
Grant Auspicing	23,516	0
Manuscript Services Income	83,125	73,159
Creative Victoria Grant Operational	147,400	147,400
Creative Victoria Strategic.I.F. Stage 1	54,544	0
Creative Victoria Strategic.I.F. Stage 2	2,876	0
Advertising	5,161	11,591
Writing Studios Revenue	6,023	23,185
Partnered Fellowships	16,322	18,545
Seminars and Workshops	129,041	195,218
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>666,560</b>	<b>981,248</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>		
Cash Flow Boost	81,732	0
Job Keeper	212,100	0
Vic Government Business Support	20,000	0
Donations – Sponsorship	4,328	3,723
Sundry Income Including Book sales	400	5,725
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>318,560</b>	<b>9,448</b>
Interest Received	7,461	12,699
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>992,581</b>	<b>1,003,395</b>
<b>NOTE 3 REVENUE AND EXPENSE ITEMS</b>		
<b>Auditor’s remuneration paid or payable to E Townsend &amp; Co</b>		
Audit of financial statements	1,900	1,900
Other Services Preparation of Financial Accounts	1,100	1,100
	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Bad and doubtful debts</b>		
Trade Receivables	500	0
Total bad and doubtful debts	500	0
<b>License expense on operating license</b>		
Operating License Minimum License Payment	8,097	31,788
<b>NOTE 4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of cash</b>		
Cash at the end of the financial period as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash on hand	144	168
Cash at Bank –	798,265	536,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>798,409</b>	<b>536,364</b>

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 5 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Trade Debtors	125,072	5,849
Less: Provision for Impairment of receivables	(500)	0
	124,572	5,849
 Other Debtors	 0	 0
	<b>124,572</b>	<b>5,849</b>
 <b>NOTE 6 INVENTORIES</b>	 <b>2020</b>	 <b>2019</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
At Cost	0	0
<b>Finished Goods</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 <b>NOTE 7 OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>	 <b>2020</b>	 <b>2019</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Prepayments	6,178	10,975
 <b>NOTE 8 FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	 <b>2020</b>	 <b>2019</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Non Current</b>		
Term Deposits invested longer than one year	0	0
Term Deposits that are invested for over one year are classified as Non – current .The current Term Deposit is invested for 6 months.		
 <b>NOTE 9 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>	 <b>2020</b>	 <b>2019</b>
Office Equipment at cost	83,508	83,508
Less ( Accumulated depreciation)	(83,187)	(79,180)
<b>Total Office Equipment</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>4,328</b>
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>4,328</b>

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### NOTE 10 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2020	2019
<b>Current</b>		
Trade Creditors	11,708	10,025
Other creditors	87,621	53,900
GST Payable	22,465	7,423
Amounts Withheld PAYG Withholding	10,408	4,226
<b>TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>	<b>132,202</b>	<b>75,574</b>

### NOTE 11 PROVISIONS

	2020	2019
<b>Current Provisions</b>		
Staff Annual Leave	15,256	16,768
Provision for Disadvantaged Writers	12,319	7,026
	<b>27,575</b>	<b>23,794</b>
<b>Non-current Provisions</b>		
Long Service Leave	4,148	3,189
<b>TOTAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>31,723</b>	<b>26,983</b>

### NOTE 12 FUNDING RECEIVED ON ADVANCE/ CONTRACT LIABILITIES

<b>Grants Carried Forward/ Contract Liabilities</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Catalyst	0	25,853
Publishability	7,997	31,512
Myer Foundation	81,179	74,135
Grace Marion Wilson	20,101	0
Creative Victoria SIF 2	23,923	0
Australia Council Adapt Grant 2020	17,996	0
City of Casey	7,575	0
Hazel Rowley 2020	7,500	0
Gift Voucher not yet redeemed from the previous years	7,439	18,003
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>173,710</b>	<b>149,503</b>
<b>Grants Received in Advance</b>		
Myer Foundation Received in Dec for 2021	15,000	0
Creative Victoria	73,700	0
City of Melbourne (ACIP)	35,000	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>123,700</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED IN ADVANCE/ CONTRACT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>297,410</b>	<b>149,503</b>

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### NOTE 13 CAPITAL AND LEASING AND LICENCE COMMITMENTS

#### Operating Lease Commitments

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
Payable- minimum license payments		
-no longer than one year	8,097	31,788
-longer than one year but not longer than five years	0	0
-greater than five years	0	0
<b>Total commitment</b>	<b>8,097</b>	<b>31,788</b>

#### Capital Expenditure commitments

Capital Expenditure commitments contracted for		
-Plant & Equipment purchases	NIL	NIL
-Capital Expenditure projects	NIL	NIL

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### NOTE 14 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & CONTINGENT ASSETS

Estimates of the potential financial effect of contingent liabilities that may become payable are:  
No contingent liabilities or Assets exist.

### NOTE 15 RESERVES

#### General Reserves

The General Reserve of \$21,000 was created for a potential parental leave liability and in 2020 it was increased to \$31,000

### NOTE 16 EVENTS DURING THE YEAR AND AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE (COVID 19 PANDEMIC)

The Covid 19 Pandemic has severely restricted Writer Victoria's operations during the year and continued to limit events being held after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions many planned activities have been postponed.

There have been no other material non-adjusting events after the reporting date, nor has any information been received about conditions at reporting date that have not been included in this report.

### NOTE 17 CASH FLOW INFORMATION

#### Reconciliation of cash flow from operations to surplus (deficit) for the year

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	145,347	(\$9,360)
Add back non-cash items		
Depreciation	4,007	9,779
Provision Doubtful Debts	500	0
Increase (Decrease) in Provisions	4,740	2,099
<b>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</b>		
(Increase) Decrease in Trade & Other Receivables	(119,223)	31,448
Increase (Decrease) in Payables and Accruals	56,629	18,911
(Increase) Decrease in Other Assets	4,797	(2,383)
(Increase) Decrease in Inventories	0	0
Increase (Decrease) in Funding in Advance/Contract Liabilities	154,235	(168,663)
Increase (Decrease) in Membership in Advance (2yrs)	(2,579)	(5,717)
Increase (Decrease) in Membership in Advance (1 yr)	(1,408)	1,852
Increase (Decrease) in Diverse Writers Liability C/Fwd	15,000	0
<b>Net Cash Generated (used) By Operating Activities</b>	<b>262,045</b>	<b>(122,034)</b>

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### NOTE 18 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The entity is economically dependent on Grant Funding. If funds are not spent in accordance with Grant Conditions future grants can be suspended. The entity is dependent on the continued receipt of grants.

### NOTE 19 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

#### Financial risk management policies

The directors' overall risk management strategy is to assist the entity in meeting its financial targets, whilst minimising potential adverse effects on financial performance. Risk management policies are approved and reviewed by the Board of Directors on a regular basis. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements.

The entity does not have any derivative instruments at the end of the reporting period.

#### Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the entity is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk.

##### (a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that parties that owe money do not pay it.

The maximum exposure to credit risk, excluding the value of any collateral or other security, at balance date to recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements.

The entity does not have any significant concentration of credit risk exposure to any single, or group, of counter-parties under financial instruments entered into by the entity. A profile of credit risk appears above under the Note on 'Trade and Other Receivables'.

##### (b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises due to the possibility that the entity might encounter difficulty in settling its own liabilities. The entity manages this risk by managing credit risk on amounts owed to it, monitoring forecast cash flows and ensuring cash liquidity remains.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### Financial liability and financial asset maturity analysis

	Within		1 Year		1 to 5 years		Over 5 years		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial liabilities due for payment</b>										
Trade and other payables	132,203	75,574							132,203	75,574
Funding in Advance/Contract liabilities	318,547	164,312							318,547	164,312
Membership in Advance (two-years)			62,660	64,068					62,660	64,068
<b>Total expected outflows</b>	<b>450,750</b>	<b>239,886</b>	<b>62,660</b>	<b>64,068</b>					<b>513,410</b>	<b>303,954</b>
<b>Financial assets – cash flows realisable</b>										
Cash and Cash Equivalents	798,409	432,495							798,409	432,495
Trade and other Receivables	124,572	5,849							124,572	5,849
Financial Assets	0	103,869							0	103,869
Other Assets	6,178	10,975							6,178	10,975
<b>Total anticipated inflows</b>	<b>929,159</b>	<b>553,188</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>929,159</b>	<b>553,188</b>
<b>Net inflow ( outflow) on financial instruments</b>	<b>478,409</b>	<b>313,302</b>	<b>(62,660)</b>	<b>(64,068)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>478,409</b>	<b>313,302</b>

### c) Market Risk

#### Interest rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises whereby future changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair value of financial assets and liabilities.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### Price Risk

Price risk relates to the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in their market price.

### Sensitivity analysis

The following table illustrates sensitivities to the entity's expose in interest rates and equity prices (if equities held). The table indicates the impact on how profit and equity values reported at the end of the reporting period would have been affected by changes in the relevant risk variable that management considers to be reasonably possible. These sensitivities assume that the movement in any particular variable is independent of other variables.

		Profit		Equity
		\$		\$
Year ended 31 December 2019				
+ or – 2% in interest rates	+/-	10,727	+/-	10,727
+ or - 10% in listed investments	+/-	-	+/-	-
Year ended 31 December 2020				
+ or – 2% in interest rates	+/-	15,968	+/-	15,968
+ or - 10% in listed investments	+/-	-	+/-	-

### (d) Foreign currency risk

The entity is not exposed to fluctuations in foreign currency.

### Net Fair Values

The net fair values of listed investments have been valued at the quoted market bid price at balance date adjusted for transaction costs expected to be incurred. For other assets and other liabilities, the net fair value approximates their carrying value. No financial assets and financial liabilities are readily traded on organised markets in standardised form other than listed investments.

The differences between fair values and carrying values of financial instruments with fixed interest rates are due to the change in discount rates being applied by the market to those instruments since their initial recognition by the entity. Most of these instruments which are carried at amortised cost (e.g. trade receivables, loan liabilities) are to be held until maturity and therefore their current net fair values bear little relevance to the entity. As appropriate the net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position and in the notes to the financial statements.

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### NOTE 20 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Disclosures to Key Management personnel are set out in note 21.

Transactions with related parties

All transactions with related parties are on normal commercial terms.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or Trade payables to related parties at the current and Previous reporting date.

Loans to /from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

None of the Governing Committee received a salary from the association.

### Note 21 KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL DISCLOSURES

The aggregate compensation made to key management personnel of the incorporated association is set out below.

2020	2019
\$	\$
<b>147,975</b>	<b>130,968</b>

### NOTE 22 ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The registered office of the association is:

Level 3

The Wheeler Centre

176 Little Lonsdale Street

Melbourne Vic 3000

The principal place of business is at the registered office

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

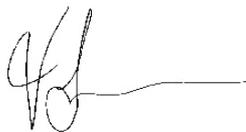
## STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Board has determined that the association is a reporting entity and that these general purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 of the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board, the financial report attached:

- 1 Presents fairly the financial position of Writers Victoria Incorporated as at 31 December 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.
- 2 At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Writers Victoria 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 Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by: -



Victor Sekulov, Treasurer



Noe Harsel, Chairperson

Dated this 7 April

2021

# WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

### **Opinion**

I have audited the financial report of Writers Victoria Incorporated (the Entity) which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2020, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Entity as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

### **Basis for Opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

## WRITERS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide the basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists. I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease or continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

**Name of firm** E Townsend & Co  
**Name of Auditor** Eric Townsend



**Address** 15 Taylor Street  
Ashburton Vic 3147

**Dated this** 7 April 2021

# With thanks

In 2019, we were grateful for the very generous support of:



We also worked with a broad range of partners, including (in alphabetical order):

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 PEN Melbourne  
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 Readings  
 Regional Arts Victoria  
 RMIT  
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 The Stella Prize  
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 Transmission Films  
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 Williamstown Literary Festival  
 Woodend Winter Arts Festival  
 Words in Winter, Daylesford  
 Word for Word National Non-fiction Festival

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# WRITERS

VICTORIA

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All about writers

