

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

At Queensland Writers Centre, we love stories. We love the writers who tell the stories and the readers who give them life.



Curl up with a
great billboard.

8WordStory.com

#8WORDSTORY

goa



This was a lot of fun, and incredibly informative. It's totally reshaped my approach to writing!

QWC Workshop participant, Brisbane.



It was very beneficial to speak to other writers and budding writers like myself, exchanging information and getting contact details about local editors.

QWC Workshop participant, Townsville



Queensland Writers Centre is an organisation that champions writers and writing from across the state, on a local, national and international stage.

We work to help writers at every stage of their writing journey, with comprehensive industry knowledge, programs, advice and support.

We believe in helping make **diverse** voices and stories heard and celebrated.

We are committed to making our programs and services **accessible**.

We work **collaboratively** – sharing our knowledge and expertise, being open to new ideas, and contributing and supporting our partners, stakeholders and the cultural sector.

We are a community made up of our members, our partners, our tutors and our supporters.

Last year, that community comprised **over 100,000 people** from across Queensland and beyond.

- **More than 5,000 people** participated in our annual program of events in person and online



Thanks again for all the QWC does. I would not have a publishing contract at all without the help of your fine articles on writing, and all the events and workshops I've attended.

Ben Hobson, QWC member and author



#8WordStory is the best social media initiative ever.

Melbourne City of Literature



Incredibly valuable professional development for authors. Awesome industry insight, great networking opportunities.

GenreCon attendee

- We responded to **more than 4,000** requests for information – in person, by phone and email
- **21,000 individuals** read our publications in print and online
- **Over 60,000 people used our websites**
- We employed **239 writers and artists** – some of the most exciting, diverse and successful writers, illustrators and authors in the country.
- Their experience and expertise enabled us to deliver **in excess of 130 highly successful** courses, workshops, seminars and author events.

And our community is growing.

In 2017, **a third of people** attending our events were new to QWC and we welcomed **nearly**

500 new members throughout the year.

2017 highlights:

GenreCon, Australia's only national conference celebrating genre fiction, was a sell out in 2017. Our biennial event drew 240 attendees from across the country and involved some of Australia's most successful genre writers as well as international best-sellers Delilah Dawson and Nalini Singh.



Our **#8WordStory campaign** was viewed by over 1.05 million people and attracted over 10,000 story submissions. Hundreds of winning stories were displayed on billboards across South-East Queensland thanks to our partnership with goa Billboards, ABC Radio Brisbane and Quest Newspapers.

In 2017 our members achieved **over 180 writing milestones**.

These included **more than 50 award short-listings, commendations and wins** and an incredible range of other achievements, including book launches, selection for residencies and development programs; as well as festival and speaking engagements.



Fiction puts you in other people's heads and other people's lives. It builds empathy. It can change and deepen your understanding of how the world works."

Nick Earls, QWC member and author



I decided to take on the Queensland Writers Centre Year of the Novel course online just for that helping hand through the writing process. Off the back of that, my first Dan Taylor novel was published.

Rachel Amphlett, author

CHAIR'S REPORT

2017 saw QWC consolidate and re-position itself for the future. We surveyed and listened to our members, and mid-year revised our membership structure to include a joint Youth Membership in partnership with Express Media, and a more affordable Associate Membership for those members who primarily access online resources. We experienced encouraging and steady growth in membership over the latter part of 2017.

I acknowledge the continuing support of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Australia Council, whose projects funding supported the move of our Books from Our Backyard catalogue to its new online platform. We are also grateful to Hachette for the MS Development Program; our major partner State Library of Queensland; and the many program and project partners who extend the reach and scope of our programs and services.

I also acknowledge outgoing Chair: Julie Barnett, Secretary: Stephanie Rowe, Treasurer: Greg McBride, and ordinary member: Kathleen Jennings, and thank my fellow Management Committee members for their support and contribution: Vice Chair: Andrea Baldwin. Treasurer: Kym Hausman, Secretary: Ann Wilson, and ordinary members: Jo-Ann Sparrow, Kylie Chan, Andrea Brosnan, Sandra Makarez and Shel Sweeney.

Leanne Dodd
Chair

CEO'S REPORT

2017 was a very busy and productive year for QWC. In addition to the success of our public program of events and workshops (with 33% of the program selling out), and the exceptional community engagement with the 8WordStory campaign, a lot of work took place behind the scenes.

In July, we unveiled the new QWC website, offering a fantastic range of new features and content. Members can now log-in to the site, update their account details, access exclusive member only content and submit information requests, writing milestones, and writers group details. The site also brings together the digitised archive of WQ Magazine. The response has been very positive with over 40,000 unique visitors between July and end December.

We launched our new Online Learning Centre in October, providing access to a range of QWC courses for writers, no matter where or when they want to learn. More than 1,500 people visited the site in 2017 and with an exciting content development plan in place, we look forward to growing our online writing community throughout 2018.

We are delighted to have posted a small return to surplus at the end of 2017, the first year of our four year strategic plan (2017-2020) demonstrating a shift to a more sustainable business model for the organisation.

None of this would have been possible without the incredibly hard work of the team of QWC staff, interns and volunteers, and the passion and support of our members. My sincerest thanks to you all.

Katie Woods
CEO



We loved the 8-word story campaign concept from the moment we first saw it. ... to see the level of engagement it has achieved over the last 6 weeks and reaching over 10,000 entries from not just Brisbane but from around the World is nothing short of remarkable.

Chris Tyquin, goa's CEO and Joint Managing Director



I was lucky enough to be selected for the QWC Hachette Manuscript Development Program. There I met my wonderful publisher and editor, as well as an inspiring bunch of writers whom I now call friends.

Victoria Carless, QWC member and author



TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present QWC's Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2017 on behalf of the Management Committee. Overall, the financial result for the year 2017 was an improvement on the 2016 results.

During the year under review, QWC reported a surplus for the year of \$4,924 (2016: loss \$63,483) and net cash balances of \$149,957 (2016: 193,267).

The Balance Sheet reports total assets of \$241,625 (2016: \$394,525) and total liabilities of \$104,480 (2016: \$262,304), with total net assets equating to \$137,145 (2016: \$132,221). The increase in net assets is the 2017 surplus.

The Income Statement reports total revenue of \$822,234 (2016: \$821,578), \$656, higher than the previous year (less than 1%). Revenue was made up of earned revenue of \$352,066 (2016: \$281,067), grants of \$461,089 (2016: \$513,363), investment income of \$1,798 (2016: \$7,101) and sponsorship and fundraising income of \$7,281 (2016: \$20,047). Of note is in-kind private sector support of \$155,500 from goa Billboards, which, as a non-cash contribution, is not reflected in the audited financials.

Total expenses of \$817,310 (2016: \$885,061) represented a reduction of 8%, or \$67,751 on the total for the previous year.

Strategies implemented during 2016 and 2017 ensured expense control to counteract the reduced revenue. The organisation has budgeted for a small profit for 2018. The budget is continuous and is monitored monthly.

Kym Hausmann
Treasurer



Financial Statement

Income statement for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Workshops/professional development fees	211,819	126,581
Member subscriptions	96,522	94,757
Grants expended - Arts Queensland	320,000	316,128
Grants expended - Australia Council for the Arts	31,300	61,428
Other grants earned	109,789	135,807
Australian Writers Marketplace income	18,864	27,431
Competition entry fees	9,913	8,590
Sponsorship	6,995	18,973
Venue and equipment hire	6,520	8,646
Advertising and merchandising revenue	6,426	4,082
Interest received	1,798	7,101
Donations	286	1,074
Other revenue	2,002	10,980
Total Income	822,234	821,578
Less: Expenses		
Artists and author fees	143,740	158,037
Audit fees	3,650	3,540
Bad debts	-	208
Bank charges	11,470	6,933
Catering expenses	25,044	7,133
Communications	12,485	15,403
Consultants and co-producers	19,375	2,545
Consulting and professional fees	52	-
Depreciation	2,547	11,191
Equipment hire and venue expenses	1,225	2,638
Insurance	9,248	8,344
Long service leave	10,622	-
Merchandise and retail costs	156	1,048
Newsletter production and distribution	31,359	36,040
Office consumables	33,487	33,495
Professional development	834	2,834
Promotion and marketing	1,148	5,842
Rent	40,568	40,000
Salaries	386,658	468,247
Staff amenities	-	850
Sundry expenses	1,928	1,395
Superannuation contributions	37,362	44,334
Travel and accommodation	28,168	27,724
Website and digital costs	16,184	7,280
Total Expenses	817,310	885,061
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,924	(63,483)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2017

	NOTE	2017	2016
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	149,957	193,267
Trade and other receivables	5	71,176	178,776
Prepayments		9,172	8,615
Total Current Assets		230,305	380,658
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and equipment	6	3,820	6,367
Intangible assets		7,500	7,500
Total Non-Current Assets		11,320	13,867
TOTAL ASSETS		241,625	394,525
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	48,726	34,240
Employee benefits	8	19,813	21,835
Other liabilities	9	24,488	201,766
Total Current Liabilities		93,027	257,841
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	8	3,942	-
Other liabilities	9	7,511	4,463
Total Non-Current Liabilities		11,453	4,463
TOTAL LIABILITIES		104,480	262,304
NET ASSETS		137,145	132,221
Members' Funds			
Retained profits	10	137,145	132,221
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		137,145	132,221

Queensland Writers Centre association incorporated

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 december 2017

The financial statements cover Queensland Writers Centre Association Incorporated as an individual entity. Queensland Writers Centre Association Incorporated is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in Queensland under the *Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (QLD) 2007)* ('the Act').

The principal activities of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2017 were to support the practice of development and recognition of writers and a vibrant culture of writing, reading and creating.

The functional and presentation currency of Queensland Writers Centre Association Incorporated is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised when the entity obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of assets and liabilities as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Rendering of services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Member subscriptions

Revenue from the provision of membership subscriptions is recognised when payment is received. Member subscription received for future years are recognised in the statement of assets and liabilities as a liability.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Association is entitled to it.

(b) Income Tax

The Association is an exempt non-profit organisation as its primary purpose is that of community service organisation and has a physical presence in Australia (refer guidelines issued by the Australian Taxation Office for clubs, societies and associations).

(c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

(d) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(e) Property, plant and equipment

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

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

(g) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at their nominal amount. Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have also been measured at their nominal amount.

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are recognised as an employee benefit expense in profit or loss in the periods in which services are provided by employees.

3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The committee members make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

Key estimates - receivables

The receivables at reporting date have been reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that any of the receivables are impaired. An impairment provision is included for any receivable where the entire balance is not considered collectible. The impairment provision is based on the best information at the reporting date.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
4 Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank and in hand	146,489	193,267
Other cash and cash equivalents	3,468	-
	149,957	193,267
5 Trade and Other Receivables		
Current trade receivables	70,266	178,776
GST receivable	910	-
Total current trade and other receivables	71,176	178,776
The carrying value of trade receivables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.		
6 Property, plant and equipment		
Office furniture and equipment (at cost)	27,937	27,937
Accumulated depreciation	(27,937)	(27,937)
	-	-
Computer Equipment (at cost)	39,289	39,289
Accumulated depreciation	(35,469)	(32,922)
	3,820	6,367
Total property, plant and equipment	3,820	6,367
Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:		
Balance at the beginning of year	6,367	6,367
Depreciation expense	(2,547)	(2,547)
Balance at the end of the year	3,820	3,820

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
7 Trade and Other Payables		
Current trade payables	15,032	9,279
GST payable	-	15,618
Other payables	33,694	9,343
	48,726	34,240
8 Employee Benefits		
Current liabilities		
Annual leave	19,813	21,835
	19,813	21,835
Non-current liabilities		
Long service leave	3,942	-
	3,942	-
9 Other Liabilities		
Current		
Deferred income	23,824	5,901
Grants received in advance	664	195,865
	24,488	201,766
Non-current		
Deferred income	7,511	4,463
	7,511	4,463
10 Retained Earnings		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	132,221	195,704
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,924	(63,483)
Total current trade and other receivables	137,145	132,221
11 Operating Lease Commitments		
Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases:		
- not later than one year	37,500	40,000
- between one year and five years	150,000	-
	187,500	40,000

An operating lease is in place for business premises and has a term of 5 years commencing 1 January 2018. Lease payments are CPI indexed on an annual basis.

12 Contingencies

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association did not have any contingencies at 31 December 2017 (31 December 2016: None).

13 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the members of Queensland writers' centre association incorporated

Report on the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Queensland Writers Centre Association Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2017, the income statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 31 December 2017 presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2017, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (QLD) 2007).

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 Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of 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.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

I draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association in complying with the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (QLD) 2007). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (QLD) 2007), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association'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 Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities 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 the 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 this financial report.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

James Kenward (Registered Company Auditor 441040)
SAAS Audit Pty Ltd
Suite 4, 118 Vulture Street
South Brisbane QLD 4101
Dated:

Acknowledgments

Queensland Writers Centre respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Elders of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations of Queensland on whose lands we work.

Queensland Writers Centre gratefully acknowledges the support it receives from the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland.



We would also like to thank our major partner State Library of Queensland for their support throughout 2018



We gratefully acknowledge project support from the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

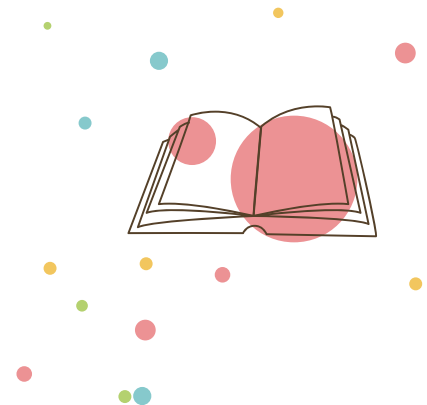


We are proud to partner with individuals, organisations and groups from across Queensland to present a diverse program of events, publications, projects and services and thank you for your support throughout 2017.

We would also like to thank the incredible tutors, mentors, writers, and illustrators who helped make 2017 such an incredible year.

Thanks also to the incredibly hard-working QWC staff, volunteers and interns, without whom none of this would have been possible. And to our Management Committee, made up of QWC members, who freely give of their time and energy.

And finally, to all of our members across the state and around the world, thank you for sharing your talent and passion for the written word with us. Without your support and loyalty, we would not be able to do what we do.



Queensland Writers Centre is a not-for-profit membership organisation that supports, celebrates and showcases Queensland writers and writing in all its forms. We work with our members and partners to promote a vibrant and diverse writing community across Queensland.

We are the leading support and resource centre for writers and writing in Queensland, offering a comprehensive online and in-person range of services as well as information and advice for anyone interested in writing, whatever your level of experience or ambition.

QWC is a part of the National Writers' Centre Network – Australia's largest network of writers. The network supports

and connects writers in all the states and territories of Australia. Together we represent more than 10,000 members and a much broader constituency of early career, emerging and established authors – across all genres, all styles and all parts of Australia.

Our members are published authors, emerging writers, children's authors and illustrators, screenwriters, journalists, editors, agents, publishers, poets, storytellers, playwrights, cultural producers, freelance writers, teachers, academics and critics. We strive to support every member and provide them with the opportunities to write, publish and create.



QUEENSLAND WRITERS CENTRE

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www.qldwriters.org.au