

The Literature Centre

Annual Report 2025



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Acknowledgement of Country



The Literature Centre acknowledges the traditional owners and original storytellers of Country throughout Western Australia.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present.

We know that sovereignty was never ceded because this land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

It is a privilege to live and work in Boorloo on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar.





Our Vision

We imagine a future where:

- All young people in Western Australia have access to Australian stories created by a thriving, valued and diverse community of artists.
- Young people, teachers and school communities have the access, skills and inspiration to express their own stories and are able to find their diverse identities and experiences represented in our programs.
- Storytelling, in all its forms, is recognised as a critical part of education.



Photo credit: Guildford Grammar

Our Purpose

To achieve this vision, we will:

- Create and present a range of relevant and accessible creative programs, events and opportunities for young people.
- Nurture, profile and provide opportunities to WA writers and illustrators
- Build the capacity of teachers, pre-service teachers, librarians, parents, caregivers and schools.
- Celebrate Australian storytelling and the creativity of WA's young people in their own right.



Photo credit: Dylan Woods

Our Values

These are the values that underpin all that we do:

Respect and professionalism: We treat one another with respect and kindness in all our dealings.

Access and equity: We actively remove barriers to engagement with all our programs.

Diversity and inclusion: We bring diverse stories into the lives of young people.

Nurturing: We encourage the creativity of young people and build capacity in storytellers and teachers.

Impact: We create meaningful experiences that have long-term and transformational effects, from increasing confidence to inspiring careers.

Collaboration: We open the door to conversations and collaborations, and work with our partners to extend our learning, impact and reach.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all of our programs, work practices and partnerships.



Photo credit: Dylan Woods



From the Chair of the Board



It seems every year is a busy year at The Literature Centre, but looking back over 2025 I suspect it was our busiest yet.

When literacy rates continue to be in the spotlight across the education sector, and beyond – a staggering 44% of Australians having low literacy skills – and the ever-evolving nature of Generative AI, The Centre’s work remains vital in enabling Australian stories to be told, shared and curated. This was done in 2025 through the day to day work of long running programs such as Young Writers as well as new programs and new ways of offering them, including, for the first time, taking the popular Sound of Picture Books performances into Perth Children’s Hospital.

This work is possible through the funding we receive, and a new Service Level Agreement with the Department of Education has given stability to our work, and enabled us to give more access to low ICSEA schools while continuing to work across the school, government, private and independent sectors, face to face and online.

At board level, the search for new premises culminated in the poignant decision to relocate from our home of over thirty years at the old Fremantle Prison into new spaces at the State Library. Board members were aware of the connection many patrons and staff had with the Old Prison Hospital location and the decision was not made lightly.

I’d like to acknowledge the board members, staff and community members whose input helped in making a decision which will help to ensure the financial stability of the centre while also making programs more culturally, physically and geographically accessible to many users.



Ahead of this move we held our annual Celebrate Reading Conference at the State Library. It was wonderful to be able to offer access to the conference to preservice teachers, to inspire and inform them around the use of literature and story to encourage reading for pleasure, education and beyond. It was perhaps telling that the most popular session was a panel about ways of encouraging reluctant readers.

Our programs are delivered by a dedicated group of staff, creatives from across the state and further afield, and the board is, as always, grateful for the passion and professionalism with which this work is carried out. We would like to especially acknowledge CEO Elizaeth Spencer who has negotiated funding, sourced new venues, kept programs running and so much more. I would also like to acknowledge my fellow board members who give generously of their time to provide oversight.

Lastly, it is my great honour to thank the young people and the educators and parents who use our services, participate in our programs and keep me optimistic for the future of Western Australian stories.



From the CEO

2025 swept by in a frenzy of change management with much of our focus given over to a strategic move to The State Library of WA. This was the culmination of much research and discussion between myself, the board and the team, with a unanimous board decision in April to take up an offer from The State Library to lease office space on the first floor, co-located with Writing WA.


Moving has been a massive undertaking for the team. Imagine trying to move five different families in five different houses lived in for over thirty years and you will have an idea of what it felt like. Hours were spent in conversation with artists, liaising with them to return borrowed artwork and process materials; in conversation with various charities arranging to donate the accumulation of thirty plus years of furniture and supplies no longer needed at our new address and in sifting through archives, collections and publications to make the hard decision of what we needed to take with us.

I would like to thank the team, board and artists for their incredible support and patience. There was much love and nostalgia for our Fremantle home and we were sad to leave it, but excited for a new era in The Cultural Centre. With access to multiple venues, new collaborators and partners the future looks increasingly bright for literacy, writing and stories for young people.



I would like to acknowledge the continued generous support for our programs through The Department of Education who in 2025 awarded us as the preferred service provider for literacy, writing and storytelling in government schools across WA for the next five years; through Creative Industries Tourism and Sport who continue to provide us with multi year investment funding to support and nurture the artists we work with and Healthway who support our in school creative learning delivery aligned with physical and mental health outcomes.

Highlights for the year on a personal note included an inspiring program of presenters for our Celebrate Reading conference delivered for the first time in the State Library Theatre as part of the CBCA WA 's celebration of eighty years spent nurturing, advocating and promoting children's literature; the continued delivery of creative learning by teachers and artists in low ICSEA metro and regional schools and a beautiful afternoon and evening spent celebrating and farewelling the Old Prison Hospital with a cohort of artist, teacher, library and funding partners.



840

teachers participated in professional learning

277

schools reached across WA

22,328

students participated in creative learning programs

33

events were presented across WA

3,126

students and teachers engaged in workshops across metropolitan and regional WA.

1,347

people attended public programs and events

3,300

books sold in 2025

8

organisations partnered with us to deliver creative programs

This year saw strong growth in reach, engagement and program delivery across Western Australia.

56

writers, illustrators and creative practitioners were contracted

A Snapshot



Marketing & Engagement



The Literature Centre continued to grow its digital and in-person engagement, connecting with audiences across Western Australia.

Our online community now exceeds 14,000 followers across platforms, with strong engagement driven by program highlights, student storytelling and behind-the-scenes content. Website traffic remained consistent, with over 49,000 visits across the year.

Video content played an increasing role in extending reach, particularly for regional audiences. This included program showcases, interviews and student outcomes, contributing to over 2,600 YouTube views.

Alongside digital growth, in-person engagement remained central. Public programs and events attracted more than 1,300 attendees, reinforcing the value of shared, live storytelling experiences.

This integrated approach ensures we continue to reach diverse audiences while building awareness, participation and long-term connection with our work.

Social Media Community



Instagram
@theliteraturecentre
8,001 followers



Facebook
@TheLiteratureCentre
6,098 followers



LinkedIn
@TheLiteratureCentre
239 followers



YouTube
@TheLitCentre
2,640 video views

Digital Reach

Website
Views

49,052

visits to
theliteraturecentre.org.au

Social Media
Reach

160,899

people reached across
all platforms

Total Social Media
Audience

14,350

followers across
our channels





Programs

Literature Workshops

A major achievement for the centre in 2025 was the significant regional exposure attained. In addition to our established Young Writers Program in Albany, Geraldton, and the South West, we undertook a comprehensive Great Southern tour. This tour involved Creative Learning Associates Ron & Wendy Gorman and Alyssa Curtayne visiting Denmark, Mt Barker, Albany, Cranbrook, Broomhill, Tambellup, Katanning, Pingerup, and Gnowangerup to conduct visual literacy workshops.

In August, Alyssa Curtayne conducted a three-day residency, delivering workshops to over 400 students at Tuart Forest Primary School. Furthermore, Year 6 students from South Bunbury Primary School travelled to Fremantle to participate in sessions focused on *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac, and *The All New Must Have Orange 430* by Michael Speechley.

Our regional coverage reached in excess of 1,200 primary school students. This extensive outreach was substantially enhanced through invaluable collaborations with local community infrastructure, specifically the public library services in Albany, Denmark, and Mount Barker, which were instrumental in facilitating the program's accessibility and promoting awareness.

A further key highlight of our work was the targeted provision of student workshops in schools identified as being low on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA). Utilising funding secured from the Department of Education, we were able to deliver these high-quality incursions to schools that might otherwise lack the financial capacity to access our services. In 2025, this funding enabled us to visit Brookman Primary School, Southwell Primary School, and Pineview Primary School over a period of several weeks, engaging with more than 500 students.

Not only did we have significant reach with regional and low ICSEA schools but we continue to deliver high quality workshops with many metro schools both government and independent.





Young Writers

The Young Writers program continued to engage young creatives across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

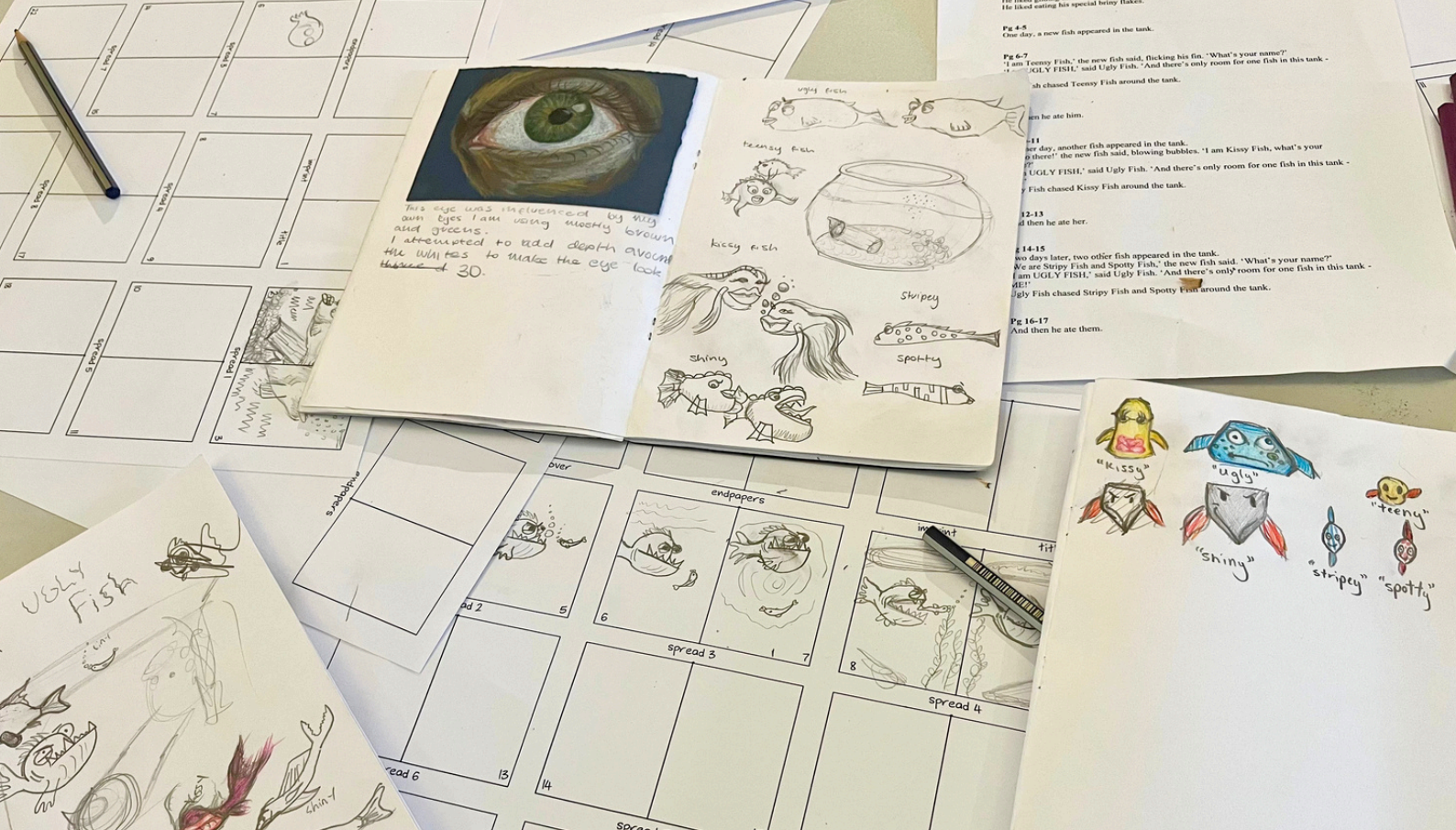
A total of 870 students participated across the program, connecting with a range of recognised and acclaimed storytellers.

The Young Writers sessions were attended by 780 students, with a further 90 participating through livestream workshops. Teacher engagement remained strong, with an average of 70 educators attending per term.

The program continues to evolve in response to contemporary storytelling practices. Students explored a range of forms including flash fiction, micro memoirs, comic scripts, graphic novels and screenwriting, alongside a continued focus on high-quality published fiction.

New contributors Kate Emery and Chemutai Glasheen joined the program, delivering workshops focused on murder mystery writing and cultural identity. Of the 18 presenters involved, 16 were Western Australian artists, reinforcing the program's strong connection to the local creative community. Interstate authors Deb Abela and Will Kostakis also contributed to this year's Young Writers program.





Young Illustrators

The Young Illustrators program continued to support the next generation of visual storytellers.

Delivered in Term 2, the program provided Gifted and Talented and specialist visual arts students with the opportunity to extend their skills through working with artist James Foley. A one-day workshop was delivered to 44 Year 7-8 Visual Arts students and two specialist teachers from John Curtin College of the Arts.

Participants explored a range of illustration techniques and experimented with visual storytelling in a focused and supportive environment, further developing both their creative skills and confidence.

The program will be reviewed and refined in 2026 to support its ongoing development.





Author & Illustrator Workshops



Our partnership with Paper Bird strengthened delivery across schools, significantly increasing reach.

Through this collaboration, author and illustrator visits were delivered to more than 50 schools, engaging over 18,000 young people across metropolitan and regional WA.


Demand remained particularly high during Book Week, with August continuing to be the busiest period for school bookings.

We continue to work closely with schools and artists to ensure meaningful and well-matched engagements, while exploring opportunities to further develop our partnership with Paper Bird.

Professional Learning

In 2025 we worked hard to expand our Professional Learning offerings to schools across the metro area and were successful in reaching a number of teachers and educators.

At Casa Mia Montessori Ron Gorman spoke to the staff about ways to overcome resistance to writing tasks in the classroom and helping to spark joy in writing. The session was very interactive and staff felt it had a positive impact on the students' enjoyment in writing tasks back in the classroom.



St Brigid's College visited The Literature centre on the site of The Old Prison Hospital and were run through a sequence Unlocking the Possibilities – Picture Books for Older Readers using reference material from The Island by Armin Grader and Home & Away by John Marsden and Matt Otley. This was taken back to the classroom and implemented successfully.

As part of our commitment to Healthway and the Go for 2 & 5 program we hosted an online session for educators on The Power of Story: Research, policy and practical examples. Teachers from various schools joined online to be a part of the session with positive feedback received on completion.

These additional sessions complimented the professional learning that teachers received when they visited the centre or a Young Writers day, or sat in on a session in a school and allowed us to reach over 800 teachers in 2025.





Public Programs

As part of our commitment to nurture and promote Australia's authors and illustrators, we make our venue available for book launches and events. Additionally, this year, we actively sought out creative collaborations to establish long-lasting partnerships.






Celebrate Reading Conference with CBCA WA




The Celebrate Reading Conference was held at the State Library Theatre for the first time, forming part of the Children's Book Council of Australia's (CBCA) 80th anniversary celebrations during Book Week on 23–24 August.

The conference provided both professional learning and showcasing opportunities for 19 of Australia's leading writers, illustrators and storytellers for young people. The program highlighted Western Australian recipients of CBCA national awards, including Early Childhood Book of the Year winner Briony Stewart and Eve Pownell Honour Book recipients Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac.



A diverse and engaging program featured oral storyteller Esther Marriot, who presented a multi-modal storytelling session in collaboration with illustrators Briony Stewart, Karen Blair and Peter Cheong. Additional presenters included CBCA award winner Shirley Marr and Prime Minister's Literary Award recipient Sarah Winifred Searle.



Day one celebrated storytelling for young people, with a focus on the craft of creating and building story worlds. Day two explored the complexities of writing for young audiences, including a panel on “own voices” writing with Seth Malacari and Chemutai Glasheen, and sessions examining the adaptation of stories from page to screen.

Panels were curated and facilitated by leading artists and industry professionals, including Kathryn Lefroy, Casey Mulder, AJ Betts, Chair Sally Murphy and CEO Elizabeth Spencer. Keynote presentations from Children’s Laureate Sally Rippin and Miles Franklin Award-winning author Sofie Laguna opened each day. The conference was attended by 147 teachers, librarians and pre-service educators. Feedback highlighted the strength of the program, the calibre of presenters and the value of the professional learning experience.





Photo credit: Maria Campbell

The Sound of Picture Books

The Sound of Picture Books returned in 2025, bringing together literature, music and visual art in a unique multi-modal performance experience.

Created by author, artist and composer Matt Ottley, the program explores the relationship between image, text and sound, drawing from his extensive body of work created both independently and in collaboration with other authors. This year's program featured two new works, *The Messy Bath Monster* by Tina Wilson and *Stick Boy* by Rebecca Young, illustrated by Matt Ottley.

The performance season was delivered in October across Fremantle, Geraldton, Bunbury and Perth Children's Hospital, reaching a total audience of 1,369 young people and their families. The inclusion of two works, one designed for early childhood audiences and one for older children, ensured accessibility and engagement across a wide age range.

In Geraldton and Bunbury, the program was extended through free professional development and community workshops focused on picture book creation and composition. These sessions supported artists and community members, including a well-attended workshop and book launch at Geraldton Library.

A partnership with Perth Children's Hospital Foundation enabled delivery within the hospital, providing a meaningful social and emotional wellbeing experience for young patients and their families. This was a particular highlight of the season. We acknowledge the support of Creative Australia and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, and additional public donors whose funding made it possible to bring this program to audiences once again.

"Our students were spellbound by the orchestral performers and exciting improvisation by Matt Ottley. Being able to witness a live connection between the conceptual acts of reading texts and writing music, and the translation of those into music, proved to be a unique and stimulating experience for our high school students." Harrison Platt, English Teacher Bunbury Senior High School Oct 2025



Photo credit: Maria Campbell



“The session held at the Library was incredibly powerful and engaging. Families who attended were in raptures! It was truly a joy to see young children and their families so deeply entranced by both the musical and storytelling performances.”

-Trudi Cornish, Manager – Geraldton Library



Songwriting School Holiday Workshops

Following the success of the 2024 Storytellers Song Lyrics Lab, The Literature Centre delivered two songwriting workshops during the April school holidays. Workshops were designed for two age groups, supporting both emerging and more experienced young creatives to explore songwriting in an accessible and engaging way.

Led by musician and music educator Albert Pritchard, principal songwriter for indie-rock project New Nausea, the sessions introduced 25 participants to practical lyric and melody writing techniques. Albert has extensive experience as both a performer and collaborator with musicians across Western Australia and internationally.

Participants explored a range of creative approaches, including stream of consciousness writing, experimenting with improvised or "gibberish" lyrics, and using melody to guide word choice. The workshops encouraged curiosity, experimentation and creative confidence for young writers, singers and musicians. Each group worked collaboratively to write and record an original song, which was later shared with parents and guardians, providing a meaningful outcome and celebration of their work.





Book Launches

The Literature Centre continued to support authors and illustrators through book launches and events, providing opportunities for artists to connect with audiences and contribute to a vibrant literary community.

James Foley – Yeti vs Bigfoot: A Love Story

The launch of *Yeti vs Bigfoot: A Love Story* was co-hosted with Fremantle Press at The Literature Centre on 15 March, attracting a crowd of more than 80 adults and young people.

James Foley, author and illustrator of numerous acclaimed picture books and graphic novels, including *Stellarphant*, *Happy Barry Capybara*, *Secret Agent Mole*, *Brobot*, *Chickensaurus*, *Dungzilla* and *Gastronauts*, has received recognition through national children's choice awards, CBCA honours and inclusion on the International Youth Library's White Ravens List.



The event was moderated by Karen Blair, who spoke with James about the book and its development. Audiences were invited to engage through a series of hands-on, themed activities, including a tug-of-war and a playful 'snowball' fight inspired by the story.

James introduced the book with a live reading, followed by an opportunity for attendees to purchase copies and have them signed.





Bianca Breen – Made of Steam and Stardust

The Literature Centre hosted the launch of Bianca Breen's debut novel, *Made of Steam and Stardust*, on 31 May.

A YA sci-fi fantasy novel, the release marks an important milestone for Bianca, who has been an active contributor to the local writing community. She founded YA for WA in 2021, previously served as Communications Director for the Australian Young Adult Literature Alliance and co-hosted The YA Room. She is also a recipient of the ASA Award Mentorship and has been awarded several writing residencies.

The event filled the gallery to capacity, with more than 100 attendees including established authors and members of the local literary community. The discussion was moderated by HM Waugh, with Bianca sharing insights into the writing and publication process behind her debut novel.

Following the conversation, attendees had the opportunity to purchase copies and meet Bianca.



Totally Lit

The Literature Centre partnered with Wordplay Inc. to support the inaugural Totally Lit festival, Adventures in the Port City, a new Fremantle/Walyalup-based celebration of literature and storytelling.

The festival activated Fremantle with a vibrant program of live literature events and immersive experiences for audiences of all ages. Across the program, 46 events were delivered through 119 presentations, featuring 186 presenters and engaging more than 20,000 people across 20 venues.

A highlight of the program was Yarning Manjaree, held in Workshop Lane on the Fremantle wharf. This event brought together First Nations storytellers to share culture, experiences and creativity in an intimate and atmospheric setting. We were proud to support this important component of the festival and to contribute to a program that showcased diverse voices and storytelling traditions.

Totally Lit embraced a broad and innovative approach to storytelling, extending beyond traditional formats. The program included literary trails, poetry slams, culinary events, panel discussions in bars, flash fiction projections, film screenings, exhibitions and unique storytelling experiences on the Fremantle Wheel.

As the organisation transitions to a new home in the Perth CBD, our connection to Fremantle remains strong. We are proud to continue supporting Totally Lit as it grows, with the festival set to return in 2026 and further establish Fremantle as a City of Literature.

Farewell Events

Two farewell events marked the end of our time at the Old Fremantle Prison Hospital, bringing together the many communities connected to us.

The first was a public event, inviting visitors to purchase remaining book stock and spend time in the space one last time. Throughout the day, teachers, families, local residents and young people gathered on the grounds, enjoying the sunshine and reflecting on their connection to The Literature Centre.

That evening, we hosted a more intimate farewell for past and present staff, Board members and artists who have worked with us over the years. The event included speeches and shared memories, with founder and former Director Lesley Reece joining us for the celebration.

Together, these gatherings honoured the history, relationships and creative work that defined our time in Fremantle, while acknowledging the transition to a new chapter.







Partnerships & Creative Collaborations

Partnerships continue to play a central role in extending our reach, strengthening our programs and supporting a love of reading, writing and storytelling across Western Australia.

Key collaborations included the delivery of the Celebrate Reading Conference in partnership with the CBCA WA Branch, held at the State Library during Book Week as part of the Big Book Adventure weekend on 23 – 24 August.

The Sound of Picture Books was presented at Perth Children's Hospital on 18 – 19 October in partnership with the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. Additional collaborations with schools in Geraldton and Bunbury supported access to this unique multi-modal performance for regional communities.

Ongoing partnerships with the Department of Education and Healthway continue to expand access to creative learning. This includes increased delivery in low ICSEA metropolitan, outer metropolitan and regional schools, as well as the development of programs aligned with curriculum areas such as visual and multimodal literacy and persuasive writing.

Collaboration with writers and illustrators across Australia also contributed to the development of new exhibition content, offering students and teachers insight into the creative process behind picture books and storytelling. Support from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport enabled artists to deliver immersive creative learning experiences through the Young Writers and Young Illustrators programs.

We also commenced new partnerships with Fremantle-based organisations, independent artists and storytellers through the inaugural Totally Lit Festival, contributing to a dynamic and diverse literary program.

As we transition into our new home at the State Library of Western Australia, we look forward to building on these relationships through a shared Memorandum of Understanding, supporting the continued development and promotion of Western Australian literature, storytelling and visual literacy.



Photo credit: Dylan Woods



Artists 2025

We worked with a diverse group of writers, illustrators and creative practitioners across the year, supporting both established and emerging voices.

This network of artists is central to our programs, bringing expertise, creativity and inspiration to young people across Western Australia.

Madison Godfrey	Gavin Aung Than	Cristy Burne	Deb Abela
HM Waugh	Karen Blair	Sean Avery	Chenée Marrapodi
Renee Trembl	Kylie Howarth	Shane McCarthy	Kate Emery
James Foley	Peter Cheong	Dianne Wolfer	Chemutai Glasheen
Gabriel Evans	Kitty Black	Kathryn Lefroy	Alexander Thorpe
Brenton McKenna	Ash Harrier	Deb Fitzpatrick	Will Kostakis
Raewyn Caisley	Sasha Wasley	Mabel Gibson	Meg Caddy
Sally Rippin	Cheryl Kickett-Tucker	Sofie Laguna	Albert Pritchard



Growing
A
S



Curated Exhibitions

The transition from Fremantle to the Perth CBD marked a significant shift in our exhibition program. Artwork was returned to artists, sold or donated to organisations, ensuring collections continue to be valued and accessible.

The State Library of Western Australia acquired a number of works for the Peter Williams Collection, while significant collections were donated to the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature.

In this transition, we retained a strong suite of 30 original picture book exhibition collections which remain available for schools and libraries, supporting workshop delivery and ongoing engagement with literature.

***A Human for Kingsley** by Gabriel Evans*

***Applesauce and The Christmas Miracle** by Glenda Millard and Stephen Michael King*

***Bear and Chook by the Sea** by Lisa Shanahan and Emma Quay*

***Cicada** by Shaun Tan*



Clancy and Millie and the Very Fine House by Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood

Ella and the Ocean by Lian Tanner and Jonathan Bentley

Fox by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks

Home and Away by John Marsden and Matt Ottley

How To Make A Bird by Meg McKinlay and Matt Ottley

Jandamarra by Mark Greenwood and Terry Denton

Mrs Millie's Painting by Matt Ottley

Ned Kelly and The Green Sash by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac

Once Upon a Small Rhinoceros by Meg McKinlay and Leila Rudge

Queen Celine by Matt Shanks

Somewhere Else by Gus Gordon

Stellarphant by James Foley

Teacup by Rebecca Young and Matt Ottley

The All New Must Have Orange 430 by Michael Speechley

The Boy and The Toy by Sonya Hartnett and Lucia Masciullo

The Fabulous Friend Machine by Nick Bland

The Gift by Michael Speechley

The Legend of Moondyne Joe by Mark Greenwood and Frané Lessac

The Rabbits by John Marsden and Shaun Tan

The Red Tree by Shaun Tan

The Treasure Box by Margaret Wild and Freya Blackwood

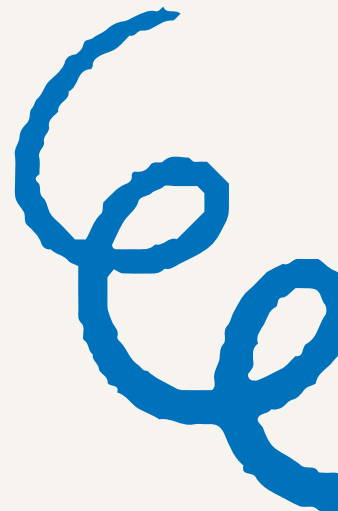
The Viewer by Gary Crew and Shaun Tan

The Watertower by Gary Crew and Stephen Woolman

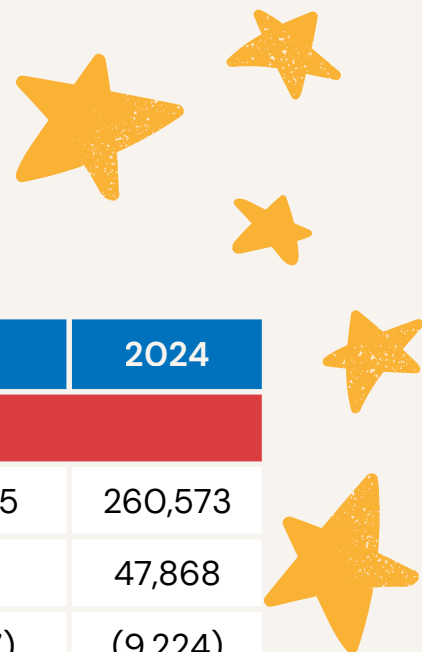
Theodore the Unsure by Pip Smith and Beau Wylie

Who's Afraid of the Quite Nice Wolf? by Kitty Black and Laura Wood

Yakkinn The Swamp Tortoise, The Most Dangerous Year by Gerald and Guundie Kuchling



Financials



\$	Notes	2025	2024
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6	335,205	260,573
Stock on Hand		-	47,868
Other Assets	7	(13,037)	(9,224)
Trade & Other Receivables	8	1,220	767
TOTAL Current Assets		316,821	299,984
Non-Current Assests			
Property, Plant & Equipment	fa n9	3,424	49,229
Other Non Current Assets	8a	-	62,942
TOTAL Non-Current Assests		3,424	112,171
TOTAL ASSESTS		326,812	412,155
Current Liabilites			
Trade & Other Payables	10	35,417	9,730
Other Liabilities		118,875	93,861
Employee Benefits		35,913	24,405
Total Current Liabilities		190,205	127,996
Non-Current Liabilites			
Employee Benefits		4,959	5,816
Loans from related Parties		-	-
TOTAL Non-Current Liabilites		8,728	4,959
TOTAL LIABILITIES		198,933	132,955
NET ASSESTS		127,879	279,200
EQUITY- Accumulated Surplus		127,879	279,200



Funding Partners



Australian Government
Department of Education

The Literature Centre is financially supported by the Western Australian Government through The Department of Education.



Department of
Creative Industries,
Tourism and Sport

The Literature Centre is financially supported by the Western Australian Government through The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport. In 2025 this support included strategic funding to support our relocation and arts activities in regional communities funding to support regional performances and community engagement for The Sound of Picture Books.



Healthway with thanks to the Government of Western Australia, is the long term naming rights partner for the Go for 2&5 WA Primary Schools Literature Program. In 2025 Healthway support included project funding for their inaugural Arts Against Vaping program.



In 2025 Lotterywest supported the fit out of our new venue in The State Library, providing funds for new office furniture, technology and display materials.



The Copyright Agency Cultural Fund supports the Celebrate Reading Conference.



In 2025 The Townes Fund through The Fremantle Foundation provided free access for students from low socio-economic areas in Fremantle and surrounding areas to attend Young Writers.



Our Donors



The Literature Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of our many volunteers and the generosity of our donors in 2024 and 2025. We particularly thank donors who contributed to our Plus 1 Matched funding campaign The Page Turners in 2023 & 2024 which enabled us to program and deliver the Sound of Picture Books in 2025.

- Alison Lester
 - Andy Griffiths
 - Angela Knight
 - Anita Heiss
 - Bethan Peters
 - Bianca Breen
 - Brenda Dibble
 - Davina Bell
 - Dianne Wolfer
 - Elizabeth Smith
 - Emily Breen
 - Fremantle Foundation
 - Gail Spiers
 - Gary Crew
 - Jen McKay
 - Jessica Stevens
 - Jo Smith
 - Julia Lawrinson
 - Kate McAffrey
 - Kate Moloney
 - Laura Keenan
 - Mark Smith
 - Matt Ottley
 - Meg McKinlay
 - New Edition Bookshop
 - Rowley Foundation
 - Sally Murphy
 - Sam Silipo (through Gabby Arts Legacy Trust)
 - Spinifex Foundation
 - The Hope Chest
 - Valentona Klenowski
- 



Our Team & Board



The Literature Centre is supported by a dedicated team of staff, artists and voluntary board members. Their collective expertise, passion and commitment ensure the continued delivery of high-quality programs and the ongoing growth of the organisation.

Our Team



Elizabeth Spencer
Chief Executive Officer

Elizabeth Spencer brings extensive 20 years of experience in arts in education and community partnerships to the role of nurturing the next generation of Western Australian storytellers as CEO of The Literature Centre since 2021. Her most recent previous role has been as Director Library Services for seven years at The State Library, where amongst a multitude of services, for information, literacy, creativity and culture, she led the award winning state-wide Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program. Earlier in her career she worked for eleven years at the (then) Department of Culture and the Arts, commencing with Project Officer Young People and the Arts and moving to a number of roles in Senior Management and Leadership of arts and cultural funding, industry development and creative learning partnerships. Elizabeth trained at WAAPA and worked in the theatre, film, tv and radio industry for sixteen years as a performer and a playwright.



Aimee Simpson
Creative Learning Coordinator

Aimee is an experienced educator and administrator dedicated to fostering a love of reading and writing across Western Australia. Aimee holds a Graduate Diploma of Education from the University of Technology Sydney and a Bachelor of Arts in English and Communications from the University of Wollongong. In a previous life Aimee worked at Books Etc in London and taught English as a Second Language in Japan. In her current role Aimee is responsible for the coordination of student workshops and various funded programs, serving as the bridge between schools and TLC's talented pool of educators and authors. Whether helping a teacher arrange an author to visit a school or assisting in the development of well-being-focused storytelling sessions, Aimee's work is defined by her commitment to supporting both students' creative growth and their social-emotional health.



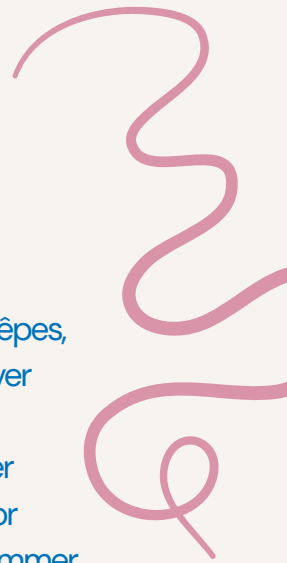
Sarah Newton **Communications & Events Producer**

Sarah Newton has a background in arts management, with experience delivering programs and events across Australia. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts and a Master's degree in Arts Management, and is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education. Her work focuses on developing and delivering creative initiatives that connect young people with storytelling and the arts, with an emphasis on accessibility, collaboration and community engagement. She has worked across public programs, school initiatives and events, reaching metropolitan, regional and remote communities around Australia. Sarah is passionate about the role of the arts in supporting young people's creativity, confidence and learning.



Deborah Lucas **Creative Programs Producer**

Déborah grew up in Brittany, the French Celtic region famous for its cider, buckwheat crêpes, seafood and the home of Asterix and Obelix. She has worked in the book industry for over twenty years. Deb studied Information and Communication at l'Université Montaigne in Bordeaux where she completed an Associate Degree in Bookselling and Publishing. After graduating, she spent a couple of years travelling, learnt African dance in Togo, worked for publishing houses in Paris and Mauritius and managed a tiny café-bookshop for one summer on the small Breton island of Groix. Deb moved to the UK in 2002 and worked at The European Bookshop in London where she organised book orders for schools, libraries and literary events at The French Institute. She also developed and managed a French graphic novels section and assisted the UK publisher Knockabout Comics with translations and book events sales. For five years, she worked as a rights manager for various UK book publishers, negotiating co-edition rights in 14 languages across Europe. She finally moved to Australia in 2012 with her partner, started a family, worked for a Margaret River winery and wrote subtitles for TV documentaries. Deb has coordinated The Lit Centre's esteemed Young Writers Program for the past five years.





Amy Walsh **Marketing and Fundraising Manager**

Amy Walsh is a publisher-turned-marketer with a strong interest in how storytelling and targeted messaging can shape meaningful engagement and impact. She brings a strategic approach to marketing, supported by advanced research and journalistic skills, and a focus on understanding broader social and economic trends. Amy holds an Honours degree in English Literary and Cultural Studies from the University of Western Australia. Her professional experience is complemented by years of volunteering across environmental and social impact sectors. Her work is driven by a commitment to using storytelling to support organisations, connect with audiences and create lasting change.



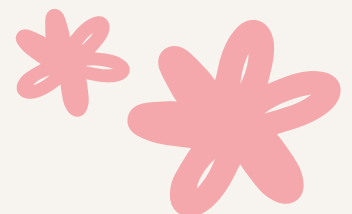
Ron Gorman **Creative Learning Advisor**

Ron has extensive experience in teaching and leading a diversity of schools in WA and Victoria. He has made outstanding contributions to the study and practice of educational leadership at state, national and international levels and has presented widely on innovation, learning and school reform. Ron has also presented nationally on reading, writing and children's literature. He has edited and contributed to numerous publications. Ron was recently awarded the 2019 Pre-Eminent Leader of WA by the Australian Council of Educational Leadership as well as being awarded a National Fellowship. He is a member of the Global Educators Leaders Partnership. Ron is also a current board member of the Australian Children's Laureate Foundation.



Kitty He **Accounts Officer**

Kitty He has been working in the accounts industry for over 20 years with a variety of organisations and she especially enjoys working in not-for-profit organisations to service the community. She is a dedicated finance professional passionate about driving efficiency and leveraging data to support executive decisions. Currently, she is responsible for the overall financial management, reporting and budgeting at The Literature Centre and another not-for-profit educational institution.





Sophie McGeough **Administration & Programs Officer**

Sophie studied a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Writing and Professional Writing and Publishing at Curtin University. Her writing has been published in *Three Can Keep a Secret* by Night Parrot Press and *Pulch*. For two years she was the Deputy Editor for *Pulch Mag*, a Western Australian youth literary magazine, and recently took on the role of Head Editor. She has been the Admin and Programs Officer at The Literature Centre for the past year.



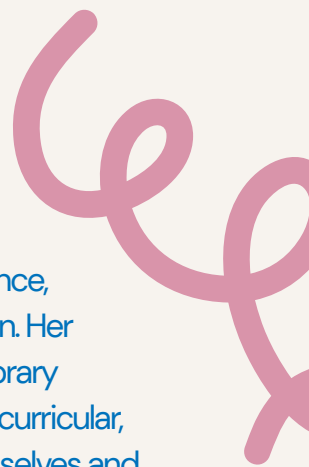
Alyssa Curtayne **Creative Learning Associate**

With over 30 years of teaching experience across four states and K-12 learning areas, Alyssa Curtayne is a seasoned educator with a Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing from Deakin University. An active member of the Australian Fairy Tale Society and an oral storyteller specializing in folk and fairy tales, Alyssa is a former journalist, sub-editor, and English teacher. Her love for stories stems from their transformative and transporting ability, shaping our shared humanity.



Tracey Rouhiainen **Creative Learning Associate**

Tracey, a Creative Learning Associate with over 25 years of diverse classroom experience, showcases a dedication to education as both an English teacher and Teacher Librarian. Her journey spans leading classes from English ATAR to lower secondary school, Senior Library classes, upper primary literacy classes, and leading high school aged groups in cross-curricular, inquiry-based learning. Tracey's passion lies in helping young minds understand themselves and the world through reading, introducing them to innovative books and guiding exploration of authors' layered meanings.





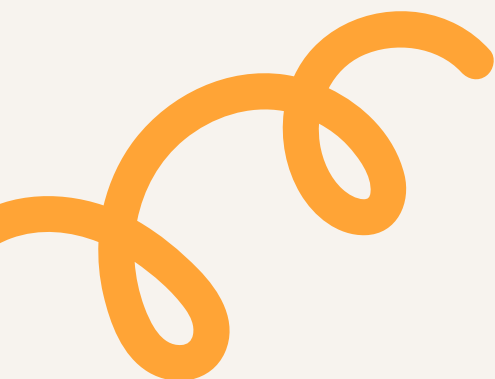
Anna Stanton **Creative Learning Associate**

Anna Stanton, a dedicated primary educator with specialized training, brings a wealth of passion for integrating Arts skills into various facets of curriculum delivery. Having led the implementation of programs across Western Australia's primary education landscape, she introduces teachers to the incorporation of Drama activities, enriching the understanding of pictures and novels. Anna's expertise extends to authoring educational materials for various theatre companies throughout Australia, and she eagerly shares her knowledge with teachers and students visiting The Literature Centre.



Rebecca Palmer **Creative Learning Associate**

Rebecca J Palmer, a primary and tertiary educator, resource writer, and author/illustrator of picture books, brings a wealth of experience to her role. Shortlisted for the Speech Pathologist Australia Award in 2022 for her first picture book, *Monkey Mind*, Rebecca initiates, designs, and delivers innovative programs for diverse audiences. As a Creative Learning Associate for The Literature Centre, she shares her passion for semiotics, visual literacy, and higher-order thinking skills. Rebecca's workshops explore the decoding of hidden messages in children's picture books, empowering them to make informed decisions in our fast-paced world. Additionally, she has contributed resources to *The School Magazine* and *Spare Parts Puppet Theatre*, aligning with the Australian Curriculum.



Our Board



**Sally Murphy OAM
Chair (2024)**

Sally has a Doctorate in Creative writing, and is a qualified and experienced teacher, having taught all ages from preschool through to university level. She lectures at Curtin University in Perth, in the School of Education. Based in the South West of Western Australia, she loves to speak to audiences big and small, close to home or around the world. In 2022 Sally was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for her contributions to children's literature and education.



**Gavin Shearing
Treasurer (2025)**

Gavin Shearing brings a wealth of experience in financial management and strategic planning to his role as Treasurer of The Literature Centre. Currently serving as the Manager of Strategic Financial Advice at Curtin University, Gavin has a proven track record in driving financial efficiency and supporting strategic objectives. Prior to joining Curtin, Gavin has over twenty years of senior leadership experience across public, private & non-profit sectors including as CFO for the Foundation for Educational Digital Development. Gavin holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) from Curtin University and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia. His expertise in financial modelling, forecasting, and stakeholder management makes him an invaluable asset to The Literature Centre's board. In addition to his professional achievements, Gavin is passionate about supporting community development and the arts. As Treasurer, Gavin is committed to ensuring the financial health and sustainability of The Literature Centre, supporting its mission to promote literature and creative learning across WA.





Jen McKay Deputy Chair (2024)

Born and bred in Western Australia Jen has always had a love of literature and remembers visiting The Literature Centre as part of her teacher training, hoping to one day bring her own class to The Centre. She has been a teacher for thirty years and has a passion for literature and finding the right fit book for all students. Jen had the pleasure of working at The Literature Centre as an Education Officer in 2021 where her love of literature was reignited.



Katie McAllister Co-Secretary (2020-2025)

Fortunate to have grown up on Menang Noongar Boodjar in Albany, Katie now lives and works on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar near Galup in Perth. She was lucky to be a student of The Literature Centre's Young Writers Program during high school. She is a Fogarty Foundation Regional Scholar, completing her Honours in creative writing at UWA and looking forward to starting her PhD. After running debating competitions for students in regional WA, she is working towards her Licentiate in AMEB and Trinity College Speech and Drama, to continue teaching young people to believe in themselves and their voice. After a brief stint as a brekky radio presenter for ABC Great Southern, Katie is a producer for the Heywire competition – a program that empowers young people from right across regional Australia to share their story. Katie joined the Board in 2020.



Bethan Peters Co-Secretary (2023)

Bethan is a pre-service secondary English and HASS teacher presently studying at Murdoch University. Bethan, a Hatfield College Scholar from Durham University in the United Kingdom, is passionate about assisting young people to reach their full potential. Bethan has vivid memories (dating back to pre-primary!) of attending The Literature Centre as a student and recognises the incredible role it has played in nurturing her love of reading and writing.





Karen Blair (2023)

Karen grew up in Perth, Western Australia, spending much of her time drawing and writing. Animals were a constant presence in her life, and she's always adored picture books, even creating her own as a child. A highlight was receiving 3rd place in the CBCA Make Your Own Book Competition in Year 8. She was thrilled when her first illustrated book, *With Nan* (by Tania Cox), received Honour Book in the 2013 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Karen enjoys drawing characters of all ages and Australian creatures found in various habitats. Her background in landscape painting often influences her illustrations. Currently residing in Fremantle, Western Australia, with her family and dog, she works from her home studio overlooking a bird-filled garden. A former primary art teacher, she is passionate about helping children explore their creativity through art.



Val Klenowski (2024)

Dr Val Klenowski has a keen interest in reading and creative writing. She is a former Western Australian secondary school English teacher, Senior Lecturer and Professor of Educational Research. She has worked in several universities including the Queensland University of Technology and the University of London. She has completed research in curriculum and assessment reform, teacher assessment, evaluation, assessment and learning. She has published books and articles about assessment and learning, curriculum and evaluation. She is currently engaged in creative writing.



Emma Matson (2024)

Emma Matson has an honours degree in English Literature and Classics, a master's degree in strategic communications and has worked in publishing, fundraising and the creative arts, specialising in grant writing and philanthropy. She currently works in philanthropy at Breast Cancer WA. Literature has always held a special place in Emma's heart; she believes that story sharing is the key to human connection and advancement.



Karen Whittle-Herbert (2025)

Karen Herbert is the author of the crime novels *The River Mouth*, *The Castaways of Harewood Hall* and *Vertigo* published through Fremantle Press. In 2021 she was awarded a Fellowship at the Katharine Susannah Pritchard Writers' Centre for the unpublished script of *Vertigo*. Her fourth book, *The Ghost Walk*, was released in 2025. Karen spent her childhood in Geraldton on the midwest coast of Australia before moving to Perth. She holds a Master of Science in Applied Psychology and has worked in aged care, disability services, higher education, Indigenous land management, social housing and the public sector. She is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a past President of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (WA). Karen lives in Perth, Western Australia.



