



Tasmanian Writers Centre **Annual Report 2018**

Supporting the craft of telling stories, encouraging thinking
and conversation, and celebrating writers and writing.

OUR PURPOSE

Supporting writers to tell powerful stories, connect with readers and build sustainable careers.

ORGANISATIONAL MISSION, OBJECTIVES & VALUES

Mission

The Tasmanian Writers Centre is principally focused on writing and reading throughout Tasmania. Its programmes are designed to meet a diverse audience, offering leadership, professional development, discussion and promotion across categories and platforms. It supports the craft of telling stories, encouraging thinking and conversation, and celebrating writers and writing.

Organisational Goals

1. To present high-profile events with a range of partners, supporting a culture of reading and writing in Tasmania.
2. To support writers to achieve their goals.
3. To connect Tasmania to the national discussion.
4. To support an accountable, responsive and sustainable organisation.

Objectives

1. To connect with partners in providing services and programmes that inspire writers and increase public involvement.
2. To deliver programmes throughout Tasmania that support writing careers, with an emphasis on:
 - i. Young writers, stories from culturally diverse writers and regional writers.
 - ii. Stimulating professional employment for experienced authors and industry experts.
 - iii. Providing accessibility for all.
3. To deliver the biennial Tasmanian Writers and Readers Festival, bringing Tasmanian writers and their audience together with national and international peers, publishing networks and other readers.
4. To ensure that the organisation is responsive to the literary sector and is a financially sustainable organisation.

Values

- An open and welcoming approach
- A passion for writing and reading
- A creative and responsive approach to Programming
- Ethical, sustainable and transparent governance

ABOUT THE TASMANIAN WRITERS CENTRE

The Tasmanian Writers Centre (TWC) works as an advocacy, outreach and support service for Tasmania's many aspiring, emerging and established writers. Its programmes concentrate on the promotion of Tasmanian writers by engaging with a range of audiences, agents, publishers and projects.

The TWC moved from the Salamanca Arts Centre in the last week of May 2018 to the Hobart City Council building on the corner of Davey and Elizabeth Street. The new office is light and spacious, plus there is room for us to conduct most of our workshops. Even though the office is in a secure building, visitors are welcome to come and access the library and meet with staff if they contact the office in advance.

Our normal programme of events, workshops and the festival is held around the city and/or across the state - taking TWC services to regional Tasmania. Whether in its permanent home in the capital city or on the road, the TWC is the primary conduit in Tasmania that enables and supports writers, both in their efforts to connect with readers and to establish their own artistic, professional and business development.

The choices the TWC makes in determining its range of services and annual programme are governed by the needs of the sector and the organisation's overall goals, objectives and core values.

MAIN FUNDING PARTNERS

Arts Tasmania, Australia Council for the Arts, City of Hobart, Festivals Australia

CENTRAL PARTNERSHIPS

Hadley's Orient Hotel, Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart Bookshop, Moonah Arts Centre, Fullers Bookshop, Devonport Bookshop, State Cinema, GASP, Linc Tasmania, Australian Poetry, Budget, ABC Radio Hobart and RN, University of Tasmania Workhorse Studio

CONTACT US

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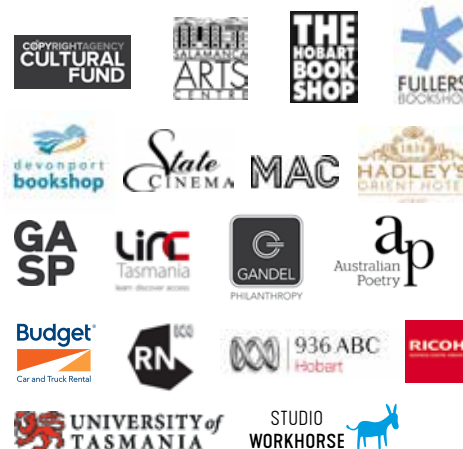
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Cover: Arianne James reading in the new library space; Hobart City Council Customer Service Centre, 16 Elizabeth Street Hobart from Franklin Square

MAIN FUNDING PARTNERS



CENTRAL PARTNERSHIPS



On the move, staff and volunteers moving office

2018 was a difficult year for the TWC. The Centre started the year without a Director and without any recurrent funding. The Management Committee resigned en masse at the 2018 AGM citing the poor response of the membership to their actions regarding the resignation of the Director.

The AGM was adjourned for two weeks. At the resumed AGM most of the current Management Committee were nominated and elected. The outgoing Chair stated that the TWC had only enough money to continue operating for two weeks, (which was why they closed the membership) and recommended that the TWC close down most of their operations and operate as an Association. However, after the retiring Chair left the meeting the membership voted to try to return the Centre to normal operations by seeking new operational funding. They also voted to accept the Arts Tasmania offer of a consultant to look at the governance of the Centre and where it should fit within the Tasmanian Arts Community.

Whilst the previous Management Committee were running the Centre in lieu of a Director the proposed workshop programme was not continued and only one event was held.

When the new Management Committee commenced, their first action was to meet with the Centre staff and discuss the issue of office accommodation as, without funding, the Centre could not afford the Salamanca Arts Centre rent. They made the decision to accept the proposal of an office space from the Hobart City Council. The HCC agreed to grant the TWC an office space for a minimal rent for one year.

The TWC moved to the new office in the last week of May. The office is light and spacious, and the adjacent room can be used as a workshop venue. The kitchen and bathroom facilities are well set up and the Building Manager and maintenance staff are unfailingly helpful. Surrounding parking is easier than in Salamanca Place and is free on Sundays. Argyle Street car park is a short walk away and provides three hours free parking on a Sunday when workshops are conducted.

The Management Committee met several times in May and June and then monthly from then on. They endeavoured to maintain regular contact with the staff, calling on their experience and knowledge of the Centre.

The decision was made to continue to employ the remaining staff in order to keep the Centre going. There was no handover from the previous Management Committee and minimal documentation of their decisions made and actions taken up until the 2018 AGM.

The Arts Tasmania consultant did not start when expected. This meant that the Grant round, for which she was meant to assist us in writing a grant application, had closed before she had really got going. Instead of finishing in July she finished in October. This meant that we were in limbo waiting on her report and grant application assistance. In hindsight, we should have continued the proposed workshop programme and reopened the membership.

A major issue was that we could not apply for new grants if there were existing grants requiring acquittal. The previous Management Committee told us that they had acquitted all grants. This was definitely not the case and we have yet to identify any that they did acquit successfully.

The newsletters and event alerts continued throughout 2018 to our members and subscriber list.

The Twitch programme continued to a lesser extent but was very successful.

Throughout the year the Centre has received feedback and support from the wider community. This has encouraged us to continue to seek funding for the Centre and its activities.

We would like to thank Marion Stoneman for the tremendous amount of work that she put into the workshop programme and the administration of the Centre. She resigned prior to the AGM but still volunteered to help us move office and to provide information from her vast knowledge of the Centre's activities.

Thanks also to Chris Gallagher, who generously gave her time to help us with some grant acquittals and also some timely advice.

The Management Committee lost two valuable members at the end of 2018. Robyn Friend and

Terry Whitebeach both provided us with a wealth of background, knowledge and experience of the Centre's activities. They had joined the Management Committee to provide some continuity, but with the proviso that they would stay only until the end of the year. Their guidance was invaluable and they are still involved with the Centre, with Robyn coordinating the Manuscript Assessment programme and Terry liaising with Oasis poets and the Prince Edward Island Writers Exchange. A huge thank you to both of them.

2019 has a varied workshop programme and the Centre is busy planning the Hobart Writers Festival, rebranded from the Tasmanian Readers and Writers Festival of previous years. We are working with the Tamar Valley Writers Festival to coordinate activities in both regions.

Sue Kennedy
Chair, TWC Management Committee
(Acting Director)



Arianne James reading in the new library space.

THE TEAM

CENTRE STAFF

CEO / Director	
Programme & Member Services	Cassandra Wunsch & Marion Stoneman
Finance:	Shannon Harwood
Twitch Coordinator	Cassandra Wunsch
Marketing, Communications & Community Engagement	Cassandra Wunsch & Marion Stoneman
Communications Support	Arianne James

CENTRE VOLUNTEERS

Anne Collins
 Maura and Heidi Bedloe
 Rosie Dub
 Michael Fortescue
 Ron Hastie
 Bob Hoerner
 Ann Hughes
 Alan Jones
 Paul Kennedy
 Steve Kennedy
 Lisa Lark
 Matthew Morrison
 Bethamy Nader
 Marion Stoneman
 David Whitebeach
 Jane Williams

Others who provided support during (and after) the office move:

Joe Bugden
 Kimbra Parker
 Clive Tilsley

The Hobart City Council building and maintenance staff were outstanding in their support. Nothing was too much trouble. In particular: Patrick Conway and Stuart

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE PRE-2018 AGM

Chair	Jeff Malpas
Deputy Chair	Caroline Dean
Public Officer / Secretary	Isabelle Crompton
Treasurer	Claire Thornett
Members:	Lisa Fletcher Cameron Hindrum Nicole Gill Shelby Llewellyn Christie Sweeting Robbie Arnott

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POST-2018 AGM

Chair	Sue Kennedy
Deputy Chair	James Payne
Public Officer / Secretary	Kate Eagles
Treasurer	Cary Lenehan
Members:	Robyn Friend Terry Whitebeach Chris Lawrence Soncha Iacono

Some of OUR WRITERS with whom we collaborated in 2018:

Ann Bolch
 Christina Booth
 Robyn Friend
 Edith Hall
 Cary Lenehan
 Oliver Maidment
 Gina Mercer
 Anne Morgan
 puralia meenamatta (Jim Everett)
 Lily Stojcevska
 Terry Whitebeach

Tasmanian Writers Centre partnered events at the Seasonal Poets, Republic Readings and the Women's Poetry Oasis.



A place to relax, read and write

AT A GLANCE

Annual turnover	\$ 55,769
Surplus/Deficit	\$ -18,269

MEMBERSHIP

The previous Management Committee made the decision to suspend the Memberships. The Centre reassured all members that their memberships would stay active until the Membership system was restarted. This meant that the numbers changed very little from 2017. Financial members (as at 31 Dec 2017): 457.

E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

This Writing Month	2172
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Online statistics:

Website users	6541
Page views (averaging)	178 per day
Total Facebook likes	4455
Post Reach	1800

Manuscript Assessments	8
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Workshop and event attendances	130
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WORKSHOPS, EVENTS, SERVICES & SUPPORT

EVENTS

Why do the Classical Greeks Still Matter Today? Rufus Black in conversation with Edith Hall. Rufus Hall had recently joined UTAS as its new Vice Chancellor and Edith Hall is Professor in the Department of Classics and Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's College London. This very successful event was held in April in partnership with UTAS at Hadley's Orient Hotel.

WORKSHOPS

The workshop programme did not run as originally planned due to the upheavals in the Centre Governance and management.

However, towards the end of the year we hosted Ann Bolch for a workshop, Plotting Backwards, when she was visiting Hobart.

This full-day session covered the basics that ensure writers' choices about structure are consistent with the story ideas.

Plotting Backwards was intended to assist writers with an undeveloped or not-at-all-developed idea and those stuck in their story who need to reimagine the best way to go.

SEASONAL POETS

We continued to support the Seasonal Poets' poetry readings curated by poets Anne Collins and Gina Mercer. These comprise readings by various poets throughout the year. The readings take place at Hadley's Orient Hotel with an audience of 40 or more at each event.

WOMEN'S POETRY OASIS

We continued to support the Women's Poetry Oasis which meets at Mathers house on the third Thursday of the month by providing a modest readers fee. TWC thanks the readers who donated their fee in 2018 in support of the Centre.

REPUBLIC READINGS

We continued our financial support of the Republic Readings this year, providing part of the fee for readers. Again, TWC would like to thank readers who donated their fee in 2018 in support of the Centre.

END OF YEAR GATHERING

We partnered with the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) again to finish the year with a social evening for members of both organisations. Tasmanian ASA representative Christina Booth spoke briefly.

MANUSCRIPT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The TWC manages services including consultations, manuscript assessments and mentorships. These services provide guidance to writers at all stages of their career, as well as employing professional published authors to provide these services. During 2018 the TWC facilitated eight manuscript assessments with three different assessors. These included long fiction, non-fiction, children's stories and an adult fantasy novel.

TWC LIBRARY

The TWC library collection holds over 1800 books as well as journals and reference works. Members are encouraged to donate copies of their work to the collection, and publishers often provide copies of works by local authors and Festival guests. As well as growing the library, this gives Centre staff access to members' work, enabling them to promote and connect writers with other opportunities. Members can borrow items for three weeks.

REGIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

In 2018 the TWC was unable to support writers in regional areas to the same level as previously. However, in 2018 two of our Management Committee were based in the North of the state and they collaborated with local groups, such as the Tamar Valley Writers Festival Committee and various poetry groups.

NEWSLETTERS

WriTas, the members' newsletter, continued throughout the year and provided an easily accessible list of paid writing opportunities, prizes and publisher announcements.

This Writing Month, our free newsletter of events and activities for non-members, could not be maintained during 2018 due to limited staff hours. However, this mailing list did receive bulletins and periodical promotional material about events, workshops and the winners of local prizes throughout the year.

In 2019 **This Writing Month** will be reinstated to provide the wider community with an overview of developments in the literary sector and to advertise member events such as book launches as widely as possible.



Seasonal Poets at Hadley's Hotel - a privilege to see three fine Australian poets in the same night. From Left: Gina Mercer MC with featured poets Robyn Rowland, Stephen Edgar and Judith Beveridge

TWITCH

Twitch provides consulting, support and programming for young and emerging writers. In 2018 the Twitch programme was coordinated by Cassandra Wunsch.

Four new works were composed and the writers paid.

BIG PICTURE SORRELL HIGH

We ran a writing workshop for the feeder high schools to Rosny College funded by the Big Picture programme and designed to provide hands on experiences to students at risk of disengaging from the education system. The applying student provided the administration of the programme with the support of the Twitch Programme coordinator and attended the resulting writing workshop.

Feedback from the students and from the Department of Education was universally positive, and we are in negotiations with Montrose high school to potentially reproduce the project.

YOUNG WRITERS IN IMAS

In 2017 Jessica Cockerill and Suzli Clafin took up residencies at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Science. Over the course of a month, each spent more than 20 hours partnered with a resident scientist to produce a new essay. Those essays are available on our website. The project was funded by Inspiring Australia.

In 2018 both young writers read their essays at the Antarctic Festival.

YOUNG WRITERS IN THE HUON VALLEY

In 2017 Lily Stojcevski and Molly Maidment (our youngest ever participant at 15) spent 20 hours each on location in Cygnet and the Red Velvet lounge. Each wrote a piece inspired by their surroundings which, while steeped in the same locale, were profoundly different. Both of these pieces, one of which can be read both forwards and backwards, are available on the TWC website.

In 2018 both young writers read their essays at the Cygnet folk Festival.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Staff changes in 2018 meant that our digital presence had to be streamlined and carefully managed.

The website and social media pages continued to have high visitor numbers.

Arianne James continued to provide Q&As and *Recommended Reads* throughout the year, which have been very popular.

The website has continued to draw interest not only from the public but from other arts organisations wishing to have their events shared through our networks. This has provided an opportunity to engage more fully with our audience, offering them a wider variety of opportunities. It has also built our relationships with industry stakeholders, who feel positively about our ability to advertise their events.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The TWC Facebook presence contracted down to one page, *The Tasmanian writers Centre*. Due to limited staff hours, the separate page devoted to the *Twitch Young Writers Programme* could not be maintained throughout 2018. This did not result in a loss of interaction and so we have decided not to reactivate the individual Twitch page but integrate that content into the main Facebook presence.

In 2017 the TWC opened an Instagram account to document and advertise the *Tasmanian Readers and Writers Festival*. The platform lay fallow for some time after the festival but consultation with our young community provided feedback that this was a more active platform for us to engage on and so we worked on becoming more active here.

In the short time the platform has been active we have reached over 1000 followers including local writers, arts organisations and publishers.

Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc.
ABN 12 182 603 395

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31 DECEMBER 2018

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Profit and Loss Statement 2018
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Committee Statement

Note 1

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporated Act 1964 Tasmania. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Associations Incorporated Act 1964 Tasmania and the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards.

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

This financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic cost and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.

The prior year comparatives have been provided in summary only.

Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc.
ABN 12 182 603 395

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
For The Year Ended 31 December 2018

	\$	\$
	2018	2017
Income		
Income from Operating Activities	55,727	425,457
Other income (bank interest)	42	1,705
Cost of Sales	334	
Total Income	<u>55,435</u>	<u>427,162</u>
Expenses		
Salaries, wages fees	37,689	250,291
Creative personnel & fees	12,146	54,652
Project and Production Costs	9,393	36,242
Travel & Accommodation	690	21,492
Marketing and promotions	1,050	14,389
Administration Costs	12,736	41,627
Total expenses	<u>73,704</u>	<u>418,693</u>
Net Operating Surplus / (Loss)	<u>(18,269)</u>	<u>8,469</u>

Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc.
ABN 12 182 603 395

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
January 2018 Through December 2018

	\$	\$
Income		
Programme		
Membership	9,278.64	
Workshops and Events income	7,871.60	
Other Events, Reads and Forums	1,984.45	
Erica Bell	2,160.00	
Misc. Income	1,034.55	
Total programme		22,329.24
Services		
Manuscript Assessment	930.91	
Book sales income	75.00	
Total Services		1,005.91
Private support Donations	240.00	
Total Private Donations		240.00
Festival sponsorship		
Erica Bell Foundation		600.00
Other Earned income		42.14
(Bank interest)		
Grants		
Australia Council		31,551.78
Other grants – state, local		
Total Income		<u>55,769.07</u>
Cost of Sales		
Earned Income Expenses	334.43	
e-commerce		
Earned Income Expenses	334.43	
e-commerce		
Total Cost of Sales		<u>334.43</u>
Gross profit		<u>55,434.64</u>

Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc.
ABN 12 182 603 395

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
January 2018 Through December 2018**

	\$	\$
Expenses		
Creative personnel		
Manuscript Assessors	2,156.00	
Mentor Fees	2,760.00	
Writers' Fees	2,220.00	
Travel	286.00	
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Total Creative Personnel		7,422.00
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Wages		
Programme & Membership Manager	13,629.39	
Finance Officer	6,850.09	
Communications Officer	2,640.00	
Twitch Co-ordinator	10,952.00	
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Total Wages		34,071.48
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Staff on costs		
Superannuation	3,058.19	
Staff Travel	404.39	
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Total Staff on costs		3,462.58
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Programme and event expenses		
Venues	168.18	
Poetry Oasis	50.00	
Seasonal Poets	250.00	
Republic Readings	428.18	
Workshop Fees	4,282.73	
Catering	619.07	
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Total Programme and Event Expenses		5,798.16
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Madi Project		8,606.43
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Infrastructure		
Office Amenities	300.03	
Software subs + IT support	2,352.61	
Consultancy	525.00	
Small equipment purchases	90.91	
Postage	316.92	
Stationery and Printing	1,236.35	
Office Rent	3,187.58	
Meeting Expenses	164.25	

Cont /

	\$	\$
	68.18	
	75.00	
	793.51	
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Total Infrastructure		9,110.34
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Marketing		
Graphic Design & Artwork	643.19	
Website, Hosting & Design	406.84	
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Total Marketing		1,050
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
Petty Cash	439.65	439.65
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Governance		
Banking Fees	461.08	
Audit	1,320.00	
Insurance	1,402.56	
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Total Governance		3,183.64
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Other Admin Wages		560.00
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Total expenses		73,704.31
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Net Operating Surplus / (Loss)		(18,269.67)
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BALANCE SHEET
As Of 31 December 2018

	\$	\$	\$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Westpac - Cheque Account	38,318.67		
Westpac - Cash Reserve	-25.62		
Undeposited Funds	16.60		
Petty Cash Account	669.20		
Trade Debtors	-90.72		
Total Current Assets		<u>38,888.13</u>	
Non-Current Assets			
Equipment & Furniture	20,158.65		
Less Accum. Depreciation	-16,033.75		
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>4,124.90</u>	
Total Assets			<u><u>43,013.03</u></u>
Liabilities			
Grants received in advance			
Australia Council	10,958.31		
Erica Bell	2,471.82		
Festival Australia	15,000.00		
IMAS	1,200.00		
Total Grants received in advance		<u>29,630.13</u>	
GST Liabilities			
GST Collected	-2,494.58		
GST Paid	644.94		
PAYG liabilities	2.37		
Superannuation Liabilities	214.29		
Total GST Liabilities		<u>-1,632.98</u>	
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provision for Leave	2,561.26		
Provision for LSL	6,866.00		
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>9,427.26</u>	
Total Liabilities			<u><u>37,424.41</u></u>
Net Assets			<u><u>5,588.62</u></u>
Equity			
Retained earnings	23,858.29		
Current earnings	-18,269.67		
Total Equity			<u><u>5,588.62</u></u>

Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc.
Statement by Members of the Committee

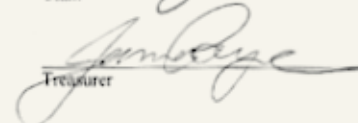
The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements:

1. Present fairly the financial position of Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc., as at the 31st December 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Tasmanian Writers Centre Inc., will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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


Chair


Treasurer

Dated this 10th day of May 2019



Engagement is the lifeblood of writing. Contact us at taswriters.org

the
tasmanian
writers
centre

