

President's Report: Gippsland Writers Network

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Overview

A year of consolidation with a solid paid membership base and the receipt of a grant from Writers Victoria.

Committee

The committee consisted of:

- President, Vicky Daddo
- Treasurer, Tash Agafanoff
- Secretary, Ben Langdon
- Promotions officer, Karen Casey

Members

The membership base remained steady with approximately 100 contacts on the mailing list, 42 of whom were financial members, an increase of four from the previous year.

Promotions

A monthly EDM was sent to paid members and an abridged version to non-financial members.

Events

Two face to face creative writing workshops were held:

All Writing is Rewriting with Lee Kofman at Moe Library on 16 July 2022. This event attracted 10 bookings.

A Bit of Magic with Eliza Henry Jones at Sale Library on 19 November 2022. This event attracted 8 bookings.

A writing competition Summer 'Home' was launched in December 2022 and attracted 23 entries, six of which were from GWN members and 17 from writers outside of the Network.

In June 2023, GWN facilitated a book launch for a GWN paid member. Sally-Anne Watson Kane was a contributing poet to the collection 'Among the Wildflowers', along with two other writers, one of whom resides in Gippsland and subsequently joined the Network. The launch was held at the Moe Library and attracted around 20 attendees.

There were several online workshops delivered by GWN committee members for Network members (either paid or non-paid) with varying degrees of success in terms of attendance:

- Write With Me facilitated by Tash Agafonoff
- Prompt-led Sensory Writing facilitated by Vicky Daddo

Digital Presence

The website is updated as often as possible to promote meetings and events. Social media accounts (Instagram and Facebook) remained underutilised due to lack of time and resources.

Other Memberships

The Gippsland Writers Network was a paid group member of Writers Victoria for the 2022-23 year.

Summary

While memberships remained steady, more work is needed to promote the network to increase and retain members. Hosting two face to face workshops demonstrated the desire of local creatives to attend in person events.