



ANNUAL REPORT

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2020

## CENTRE FOR STORIES

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Caption Nisha D'Cruz, Saga Sisterhood at Mapping Melbourne.  
Photo credit: Wild Hardt

# Welcome

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**We thank the ongoing custodianship of the Whadjuk Noongar people, who continue to guide the spiritual, cultural, economic, political and religious life here.**

## **Our Purpose**

The Centre for Stories cultivates stories that inspire thought, spark empathy and challenge intolerance. Our focus is on empowering people whose experiences and perspectives are often marginalised.

## **Our Values**

We believe in the power of community, partnerships and collaboration.

We are an inclusive organisation driven by creativity, passion, compassion and curiosity.

We are outward looking, supportive and offer a safe space for people to gather.

We are here to build a community of people who are interested in telling and sharing their stories.



**CENTRE** *for*  
**STORIES**



# Chair's Message

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It has been another year of extraordinary achievements for the Centre for Stories with the consolidation of established programs and the expansion of the Centre's reach and impact through a range of new and innovative activities. The Centre has cemented itself as an integral part of Perth's art and culture community and its work has extended beyond the CBD to the suburbs, regionally and even internationally.

The diverse program encompassed events, community festivals, public lectures, personal interviews, mentoring of emerging writers and storytellers, providing hot desks and book clubs. In particular, the Centre celebrates the following achievements in the past year:

- The team pioneered **Sidewalks** where people went from venue to venue to listen to stories. This was the first literary event of its kind to be ever held in Perth.
- The very successful **Backstories** was a community event held in suburban backyards in the north, south, east and west of the CBD.
- International engagement continued in countries in the Indian Ocean. **Bincang Buku (Talking Books)** was a series of interviews with authors and translators working in or writing about Indonesia.

Another highlight was the launch of the Centre's first fundraising campaign. The establishment of the Founders Circle exceeded expectations as did the contributions from the Story Supporters and the Community Fund donors. I wish to personally thank everyone who supported these campaigns, demonstrating that our donors recognise the unique contribution made by the Centre.

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their work and commitment during the year. I know that they join me in applauding the phenomenal work of the Centre's Director Caroline Wood and her small team who have achieved some outstanding results and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of storytellers, writers and our community.

**Coralie Bishop**

*Chair*



Coralie Bishop.

Photo page 6:  
Centre for Stories. Photo credit: Jesse Roberts



Caroline Wood, Director  
and Co-Founder.  
Photo credit: Leah Jing McIntosh  
@liminalmag

## Director's Report

In 2015 when John and I acquired 100 Aberdeen Street, little did we know that it would turn into the hub of activity it is today. We have renovated the courtyard, upstairs and garden, giving the space more than a lick of paint.

After two years of renovations and development, this elegant Queen Anne home has become a safe, inclusive space and built a diverse community of emerging writers and leading storytellers. Our building feels completely lived in, our indoor plants are thriving and book donations to the library are growing by the day. Our community of creatives has expanded to include more people from many regions and with different disabilities, sexualities, ages, ethnicities, ideologies, genders, beliefs, religions, and all of the other aspects of identity that make us unique. We have mentored 13 emerging writers, trained 50 new oral storytellers, collected and shared 67 stories, produced two publications, and organised and presented two festivals.

We are making a difference to the life of the city as a capital for the state, as a hub for the Indian Ocean region, and as a centre for the suburbs that radiate in every direction.

This year, we became more connected with creatives in the Indian Ocean region. We were awarded our first grant by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for an exchange program between writers from WA and writers from East Indonesia. We also interviewed and connected with writers from Indonesia, Singapore and India.



Like many organisations across Australia, we had our challenges with COVID-19. We lost 35% of our income, which was derived from events, as we had to shut our doors. We also had to halt a number of our projects that were reliant on face-to-face training and recording. We are, however, pleased to report that we have come through this crisis intact and have become stronger for it as we look to developing our risk plans and pivoting our activities so that we are better prepared for the future.

We begin the new financial year with Lotterywest funding that will be used to develop click-and-pay online oral story training, which will reach a global audience. We received funding from the Copyright Agency and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and were supported by the Founders Circle to produce Journal, a weekly series of writings to share writers' experiences of COVID-19. The State Library of WA has commissioned us to collect community stories for the historical archives from individuals who have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. We have also started our first schools project with funding from the City of Armadale and our Story Supporters donors. Our Cafe Residency, funded by the City of Perth, had to take a pause due to COVID-19, but will now proceed with writers taking up residency at the Centre and cafes.

We ran our first fundraising campaign after successfully receiving funding from Creative Partnerships, who provided dollar-for-dollar matching funds. Changing Lives, Changing Minds aimed to raise \$15,000, and we exceeded all expectations by raising just over \$60,000.

And so, the Centre for Stories stands strong in 2020 because of the people who believe in us and who support us. I remain grateful to our supporters and continue to be spurred on by our determination to foster a community where everyone's story matters. I thank our sponsors and funders. I thank our team, especially Robert, Logan, Claudia, Sisonke, Jay and Nina. I thank our community and audience, our regulars and irregulars, our sector and leaders. As we close the year with COVID-19 affecting those closest to us and countless others, we are determined in our resolve to empower more people to share their stories because stories matter, and stories matter because people matter.

### **Caroline Wood**

*Co-Founder and Director*

# Snapshot

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Annual Report 2020

## 2015-2020

### We have organised:

- > **322** events
- > **9** community festivals

### We have published:

- > **4** print publications

### We have produced:

- > **176** audio stories
- > **139** interviews

### We have mentored:

- > **192** oral storytellers
- > **35** emerging writers

### We have paid:

- > **275** creatives
- > **13** hot desk fellows
- > **35** mentors

### We have reached:

- > **18,000** audience members
- > **61** media mentions

## 2020

### We have organised:

- > **82\*** events  
(July 2019 – November 2019)
- > **2** community festivals

### We have published:

- > **2** print publications

### We have produced:

- > **67** audio stories
- > **63** interviews

### We have mentored:

- > **50** oral storytellers
- > **13** emerging writers

### We have paid:

- > **106** creatives (with 65% of our income paid to creatives)
- > **13** hot desk fellows
- > **13** mentors

### We have reached:

- > **1 650\*** audience members  
(July 2019 – November 2019)
- > **48,620** website visitors  
(with 120,656 website views)
- > **7203** social media followers (combined across 3 platforms)
- > **2530** newsletter subscribers
- > **18** media mentions

\*Numbers have been affected by COVID-19 as all events were cancelled from March 2020.

In the last year we have worked with, mentored and collected stories from people of many cultural backgrounds as shown in the map. The Centre for Stories is committed to representing all of the voices that make up Australia.

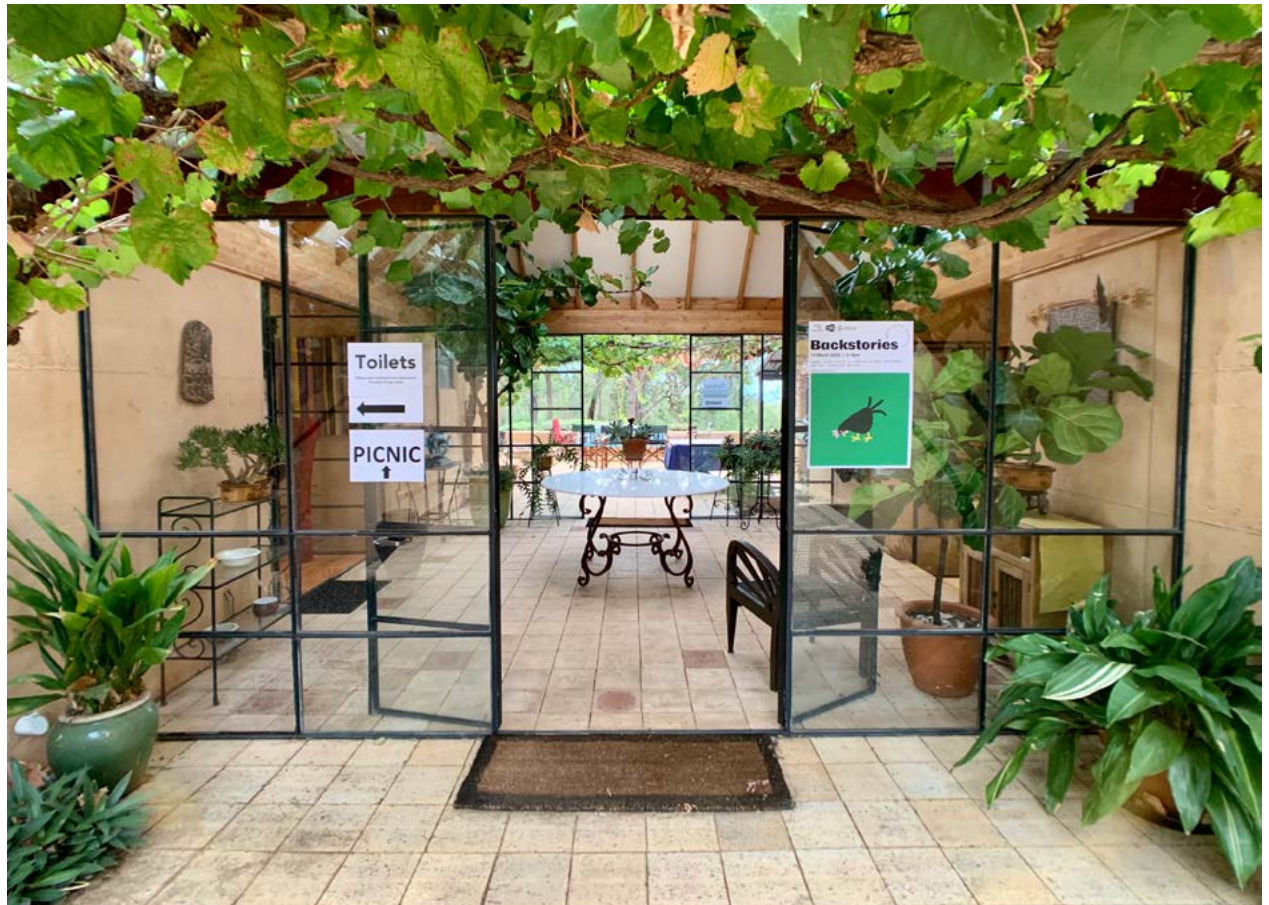


# Events & Festivals

The Centre's internal and external events reach a broad audience whilst also providing pathways for writers, oral storytellers and others to gain new ways to share their work. In creating a platform in person, we have curated events and festivals that allow many people to interact and celebrate the life of the city. We host people at Aberdeen Street many times during the week and we have also performed a number of outreach projects that allow us to stretch our legs in public.

## Backstories

Backstories was a one-night festival of storytelling in people's backyards across Perth, funded by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and Healthway. Held in March 2020, it gave neighbours and community members opportunities to share intimate spaces, coming together to listen to a diverse range of stories. Across multiple locations from Joondalup to Goosberry Hill, we enjoyed a successful new addition to Perth's end-of-summer cultural scene. The feedback from hosts, participants and attendees was very positive.



Backstories, Gooseberry Hill. Photo credit: Raihanaty A Jalil

**Backstories was like a warm hug from a close friend. Welcoming and familiar. Thanks for sharing some awesome stories.**

– Attendee





Colin Archibald, Backstories. Photo credit: Logan Griffiths

## Feature

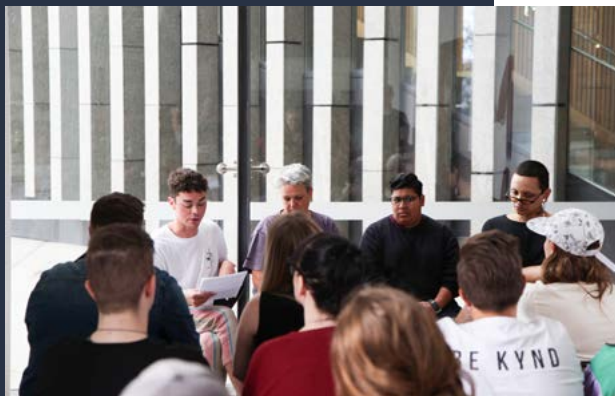
*'It's the summer of 1982. I'm 15 years of age and with tears in my eyes I say to my mother, "I wish I was white."*

In this raw and emotional story that sheds light on overt racism, leadership, and the importance of embracing who you are, Colin Archibald shares his experience of growing up in 1980s London as a young black man.

[Listen](#) to Colin's story.



Ron Bradfield and Sisonke Msimang at *The Making of Me*.  
Photo credit: Claudia Mancini.



Jay Anderson, Janet Carter, Jaini Shah and Serenity Wilson  
at *A Queer History*. Photo credit: Claudia Mancini



“

**I loved moving around venues and find[ing] new venues in the City. I also loved all of the speakers and how they didn't shy away from difficult topics but were also approachable, friendly and caring.**

– Attendee



Alicia Tuckerman, Tinashe Jakwa and Raphael Farmer at *The Book That Changed My Life*. Photo credit: Claudia Mancini



Mani Mae Gomes, Lisa Longman and Shenali Perera at *Taking Up Space*.  
Photo credit: Claudia Mancini

< Emily Paull, Raihanaty A Jalil and Laurie Steed at *Bad Boys of Literature*.  
Photo credit: Claudia Mancini

## Sidewalks

Sidewalks was a one-day festival of storytelling in unique spaces across Perth and Northbridge, funded by the City of Perth. Held in October 2019, Sidewalks gave people access to venues such as Muir Books, The Mess at Uncle Joe's, Moore Contemporary, and elsewhere, showcasing the city in a new way. People walked from venue to venue to listen to oral stories, panel discussions and readings. It was the first literary tour event of its kind to be held in Perth.

## Lit Live

Lit Live is a regular event at the Centre for Stories, presented by Sarah McNeil. It is an event where actors read literature to an audience, and has created a community of drama lovers and new audience members. With an event capacity of 40 people, Lit Live is consistently sold out.

## Spotlight On...

Spotlight On... is hosted by PEN Perth and focuses our attention on political and literary issues in overseas countries. To date, this has included Indonesia, Burma, Colombia, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere, giving Perth audiences an opportunity to learn about the issues of human rights, censorship, media ownership, writing and imprisonment that people face in different countries.





Illustration by James Berryman

## Feature

Tami Xiang has had to overcome poverty, the disadvantage of living in a remote village in China, discrimination, sexism and racism to become an internationally recognised photographer.

Tami Xiang's story, 'When Someone Says You Can't Do It, Do It Twice and Take Pictures', shares insight into her life growing up in rural China, facing supercilious characters in the big smoke, and finding confidence through her passion for contemporary art.

*'And I said, "No, if I am such a young lady and I'm not on the same level to talk with you about contemporary art, you are not on the same level to talk about sex with me."'*

[Listen](#) to Tami's story.

## Bread and Butter

Bread and Butter is a monthly series of events that combines dinner with live storytelling. Emphasising a connection between food and narrative, it brings together people with stories to tell about migration, asylum, travel, experience, and life in general. There have been a number of Bread and Butter events featuring cuisine from Ethiopia, Iran, Spain, Ghana, and more.



Tami Xiang. Photo credit: Logan Griffiths

# Mentoring & Training

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Jay Anderson, Inclusion Matters Mentee.  
Photo credit: Chris Gurney

**The Centre provides training for people who would otherwise not have the opportunity to share their stories. This is to build their capacity and engagement in arts, cultural and creative practices. Over the course of the past 12 months, we have trained 50 people in oral storytelling, recorded and shared 67 stories, conducted 63 interviews, and mentored 13 emerging writers from CaLD and minority backgrounds. Our mentoring and training seeks to be holistic, making sure we attend to issues of self-esteem and wellbeing, in addition to craft, narrative, style, voice and performance.**

We have had many success stories from our community and alumni.

Patrick Gunasekera presented six poems that were developed during the Centre for Stories Hot Desk Fellowship at Perth Festival's 2020 Literature & Ideas weekend. Patrick's poems also led to a successful application to Midsumma Festival's Living in the Queerantime project as well as the Midsumma Pathways mentorship program. Patrick was an online panellist at the 2020 Emerging Writers' Festival.

Tinashe Jakwa completed a number of new works during the Centre for Stories Hot Desk Fellowship. *Nothing but the Queen's English* was shortlisted for the Deborah Cass Award, a national award for migrant writers. *Stillbirth* was taken on for script editing and production for The Blue Room Theatre's Winter Nights program. Tinashe also attended the 2019 Digital Writers' Festival (DWF) in Melbourne as part of a collaboration between the Centre for Stories and DWF.

Kaya Ortiz Lattimore developed a number of poems, articles and reviews during their Centre for Stories Hot Desk Fellowship. Kaya's work has been accepted by *Scum Magazine*, *Westerly*, *Sydney Review of Books* and SBS Voices.

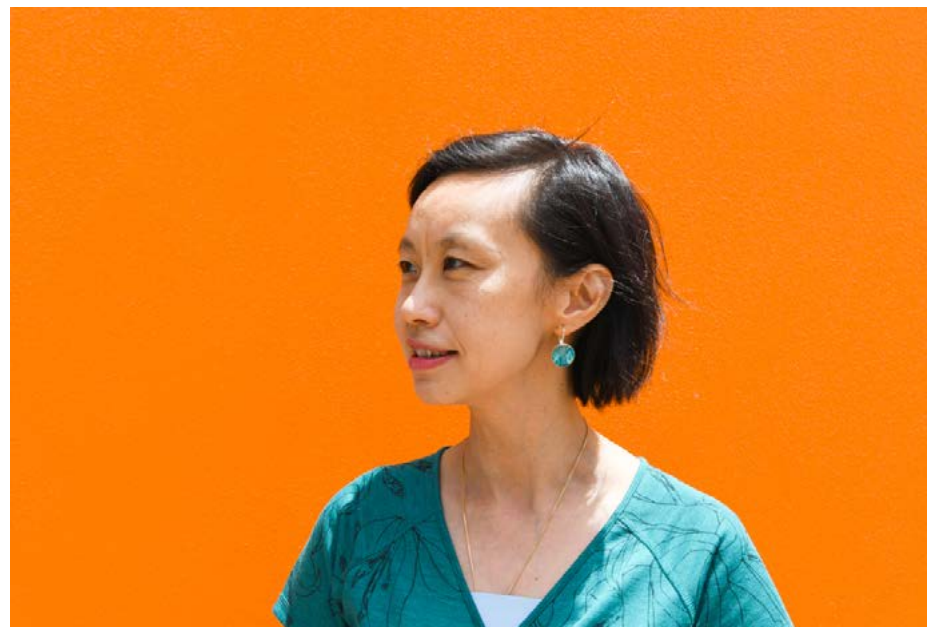
Emily Sun is an Inclusion Matters Hot Desk Fellow who signed a contract with Fremantle Press for her first collection of poems, due for publication in 2021. Emily's writing has also been accepted by *Meanjin*, *Cordite* and *Australian Poetry Journal*.

Yuot Alaak, previously mentored in our African Writers Mentoring Program in 2017, had his memoir shortlisted for the 2018 T.A.G Hungerford, which was then published by Fremantle Press in 2020 under the title *Father of the Lost Boys*.

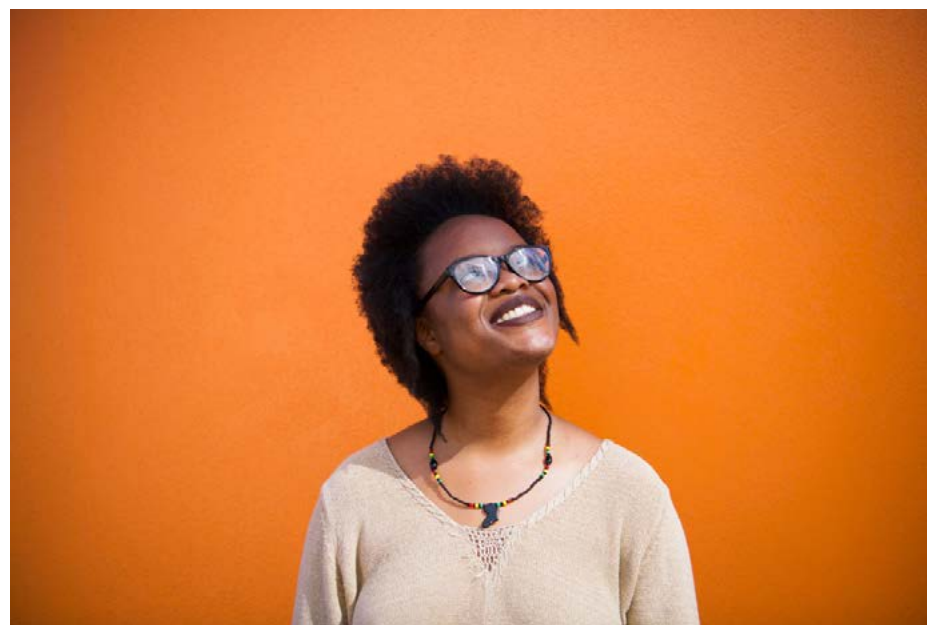
Jay Anderson completed the Inclusion Matters Mentoring Program with mentor and author Rashida Murphy in 2020. In this time, Jay has written for *the Los Angeles Review of Books*, received funding to establish a youth magazine (*Pulch*) through Propel Youth Arts (auspiced by the Centre for Stories) and was selected for the Los Angeles Review of Books Publishing Scholarship.

Maya-Rose Chauhan and her sister Asha Kiani presented stories that were originally developed during the 2019 Saga Sisterhood project at the 2020 Perth Fringe Festival.

Four Centre for Stories alumni writers presented work at Perth Festival's 2020 Literature & Ideas weekend, five writers presented work at the 2019 Digital Writers' Festival in Melbourne, and five writers presented work at the 2020 Emerging Writers' Festival.



Emily Sun, Hot Desk Fellow. Photo credit: Claudia Mancini

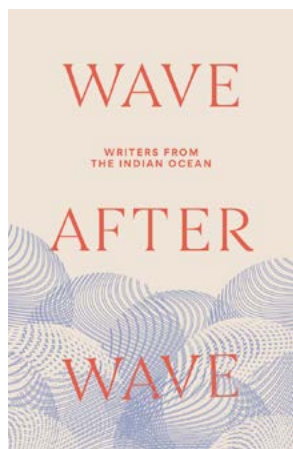


Tinashe Jakwa, Inclusion Matters Mentee. Photo credit: Claudia Mancini



# Projects & Collaborations

We pride ourselves on providing opportunities for communities and people who remain in the margins, and reaching audiences from diverse backgrounds. Our reach and our strength come from the partnerships we have developed with The Blue Room Theatre, the State Library of Western Australia, the Digital Writers 'Festival, Multicultural Arts Victoria and *LIMINAL*.



## Wave After Wave

*Wave After Wave* is an anthology published by the Centre for Stories that came out of the Indian Ocean Mentoring Project for 10 writers from the Indian Ocean Rim. Over the course of six months, writers learned their craft through one-on-one meetings with their mentors, with additional gatherings and workshops. Funded by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the Indian Ocean Mentoring Project was an opportunity for people to think regionally, to consider

what it means to be part of the Indian Ocean region rather than the nation, and to help people engage beyond the city and state. This helped many who had not written before, and engaged those from a number of diasporas. *Wave After Wave* was published and launched in October 2019.

## Inclusion Matters

Inclusion Matters was a mentoring project for emerging writers and Hot Desk Fellows, funded by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and the Copyright Agency. It engaged emerging writers to complete one-on-one mentoring with an established writer over 12 months. The Hot Desk Fellowship allowed fellows time and space at the Centre, as well as a stipend, in which to work on new pieces over the course of 10 weeks. During this time, there were a number of professional development sessions for the writers involved, including presentations on editing, submitting to journals, agents, publication and festivals. These sessions were led by well-established professionals such as Roanna Gonsalves (Author, NSW), Amy Lin (Poet, WA), Camha Pham (Editor, Vic.), Alice Muhling (Emerging Writers' Festival, Vic.) and Leah Jing McIntosh (*LIMINAL*, Vic.).



Inclusion Matters and Hot Desk Fellows. Photo credit: Jesse Roberts



Elham Mohammadnejad, Inclusion Matters Mentee.  
Photo credit: Chris Gurney

## Feature

Elham Mohammadnejad is an Inclusion Matters mentee, writer and photographer. She draws inspiration from her life experiences and love for language and storytelling. At the conclusion of the mentoring project, Elham shared her gratitude to the Centre.

*'As an immigrant from a different background, I found [the] Centre for Stories far from mainstream writing organisations, which I wandered dismally from one to another in the first two years of settling in Perth. The inclusive approach and professional team who are friendly and helpful have made the mentorship experience beyond joy. And now approaching the end of the mentorship project, I feel I am heard and I know this is the beginning of a long journey ahead.'*

[Read](#) our interview with Elham.



Raphael Farmer, Inclusion Matters Hot Desk Fellow. Photo credit: Leah Jing McIntosh @liminalmag

## LIMINAL x Centre for Stories

LIMINAL founder and editor Leah Jing McIntosh visited Perth for a residency at the Centre for Stories. This resulted in the publication of 14 interviews online and a print volume accompanied by photographic portraits. During her time here, Leah ran a workshop and gave a talk to emerging practitioners about starting a journal, the importance of self-care, and how collaborations between different organisations can bring benefits to different audiences.

### Feature

Raphael Farmer is a writer living in the northern suburbs of Perth. He has written for a number of publications and participated in the Indian Ocean Mentoring Project at the Centre for Stories. Raphael was one of the creatives interviewed for the LIMINAL x Centre for Stories publication.

*'I grew up wanting to read stories that would connect with me, but nothing quite matched what I was looking for. I decided that I would write the stories I had always wanted to read: with gay protagonists and within narratives that are not solely about them being gay. As a writer, I want to keep improving on what I do and never stop learning. As a storyteller, I want to provoke emotional reactions from readers and take them with me into the worlds I create. As a man, I want to bridge my past in Mauritius with my present in Australia and forge something I can be proud of in the future.'*

**[Read the interview with Raphael.](#)**



## Saga Sisterhood

Saga Sisterhood was a transformative performance project for women from communities who identify as South Asian and who come from non-performer backgrounds. It was funded by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. Sukhjit Kaur Khalsa worked with eight South Asian storytellers to develop Saga Sisterhood, which was performed at the Centre for Stories, The Blue Room Theatre's Winter Nights program and Mapping Melbourne 2019.

### Feature

When Amarjit Kaur moved to New Zealand with a toddler and baby on the way, the last thing she expected was to develop a close friendship with a stranger at the bus stop. Adrianne Smith became a dear friend, but after Amarjit moved with her family to Australia, they lost connection. In Saga Sisterhood, Amarjit shared her years of searching for her friend, going through the white pages day after day. She decided to sign up for Saga Sisterhood and share her search for Adrianne Smith in the hope that someone in the group might be able to help her. Someone did and that someone was her daughter who had not heard about her mum's lifelong search for her dear friend who she was reunited with in New Zealand.

*'And even 26 years have gone but when I met her...She came, I hugged her and we just sat on the sofa and just started from where we had left. As if there was no gap.'*

[Listen](#) to Amarjit's story.



Winter Nights performance at The Blue Room Theatre. Photo credit: Tasha Faye



Amarjit Kaur performing at The Blue Room Theatre. Photo credit: Tasha Faye

## Rule Breakers

Rule Breakers (Women in STEMM) was a project funded by Curtin University that focused on collecting six stories from women rebelling against the status quo in STEMM. This collaboration aimed to enlighten academics, fellow researchers, future students, and the general public, in order to value, recognise and herald the importance of women working in STEMM.

### Feature

Dr Laura Machuca Suarez is a Senior Research Fellow at Curtin University's Faculty of Science and Engineering. Laura's story, 'Lilia's Daughter', is about defying the odds in a culture that does not support the professional achievements of women. Her mother, Lilia, gave her the courage to make an impact and change the world through her research.

*'In Colombia it matters whose daughter you are. I'm not the daughter of a rich mother and father. The way it goes traditionally in my home country is that it is expected for a woman to get married and stay at home raising a family, totally depending on their husbands financially...But because I am the daughter of Lilia, I wanted to be different.'*

## 16 Days, 16 Stories

16 Days, 16 Stories is a collection of stories presented in solidarity with survivors of domestic violence. Developed in partnership with the State Library of Western Australia as a contribution to the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, this collection of stories hopes to inform and challenge views on what violence looks like and who it might affect. Across 16 unique and powerful personal stories, we hear from both survivors and perpetrators of violence, service providers and frontline workers, and extend what we know about violence, intimacy and power.



Dorinda Cox, shared her story for 16 Days.  
Photo credit: Claudia Mancini

## Feature

Dorinda Cox is a Kaniyang Yued Noongar woman whose family is from the southwest area of Western Australia. She is a business owner and acting executive officer of the Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council in Perth. She is the mum of two daughters, recently divorced, and has worked in the family and domestic violence area for about 20 years. Her first experience working in this area was as a police officer for eight years on the frontline attending domestic violence cases. She has seen and responded to different levels of the continuum of supporting women in particular, mainly in the crisis area but also within the refuge system. Within her current role, she is involved with policy and advocacy and advocates for service reform in relation to responses, particularly for Aboriginal women.

Dorinda Cox explains how a new narrative about the potential of contemporary Aboriginal women and a sophisticated interplay of Western and traditional justice systems are what is needed to tackle systemic violence. Colonisation destroyed gender equality and its repair is our shared responsibility.

*'You can be all those things: you can be a businesswoman, you can be a woman who's a political figure, you can be whatever you want, but you hold your culture and your family and your kinship and your community so strong and at the heart of who you are.'*

[Listen](#) to Dorinda's story.

# International Work



Close to Home speakers Erni Aladjai and Alberta Natasia Adj. Photo credit: Claudia Mancini

The Centre's international work is grounded in the Indian Ocean. This is at a conceptual, geographic and cultural level. Over the past 12 months, this has included exchange programs, contributions from international writers, and interviews with people in the region. Our international work demonstrates our commitment towards being an outward-facing organisation and the recognition that we live in a vibrant and diverse region.

## Lintas Laut

Lintas Laut is an exchange of writers between Western Australia and Eastern Indonesia, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It shines a light on parts of both nations that are often under-represented in cultural dialogue, and is about the creation of new relationships and new works.

Erni Aladjai was the first writer to visit Perth in February 2020. Erni is a full-time writer and freelance fiction editor. Her novel *Kei* took first place in the 2011 Jakarta Arts Council novel competition. Other award-winning works include *Sampo Soie Soe*, *Si Juru Masak* at the 2012 Jakarta International Literary Festival.

During her visit, Erni participated in the event Close to Home—Discovering Female Writers, which was hosted by the Institute of Public Policy at the University of Western Australia.

This project has unfortunately been impacted by COVID-19, but when it recommences, there will be a publication that will come out of the exchange between two Indonesian writers and two Australian.



Participants and Members of the Australia-Indonesia Institute attending the Close to Home Seminar. Photo credit: Claudia Mancini



## Singapore Hot Takes

Singapore Hot Takes is a series of interviews with 16 contemporary writers from Singapore, focusing on questions about their craft, reading influences, community and ethics.

## Five Minutes With

Five Minutes With is a series of interviews with contemporary poets from India. The interviews focus on what it means to be a poet today and engage with questions of reading, craft, voice, identity and place.

## Bincang Buku

Bincang Buku (Talking Books) is a series of interviews with authors and translators working in or writing about our close neighbour Indonesia, discussing both their writing practice and issues that matter to Indonesian literature as a whole.

## The Tiger Moth Review

The Centre is collaborating with *The Tiger Moth Review* to create an online collection of eco-poems to be published on the journal's website in 2020.

This project connects the cultural ecologies of the two cities of Perth and Singapore, with the hope of creating new eco-conscious poems that will resonate across geographical boundaries. Through this collaboration, we introduce readers to new voices, mapping out different ways we can respond to pertinent topics of climate change, culture, consumerism, and environmental consciousness, all with a desire to better understand and articulate our relationship to the world we live in. As is the mission of both organisations, this collaboration will particularly emphasise the representation of a diversity of voices, especially from women of colour.

# Community Engagement

**The Centre's commitment to creating a safe and welcoming space is evident through our community engagement. A number of book clubs, meet-ups, and writing workshops are run at the Centre, and we have also developed an expansive and interesting community library entirely from donations. Our internship program for high school and tertiary students ensures we are contributing to the development of future arts leaders. Our community engagement goes towards supporting access at every level of the cultural ecosystem.**

## AfroHeritage Book Club

AfroHeritage Book Club is run by Vuma Phiri and Gisele Ishimwe. The book club offers an opportunity to connect Africans living in Australia with literature (and other relevant bodies of artwork) created by Africans. Topically, the book club covers integration, migration, resettlement, multiculturalism, race, diaspora politics, African history, the impact of colonisation, neo-colonisation, rebuilding African nations, and expanding the single story narrative.

## The SFF Collective

The SFF (Science Fiction, Fantasy, Speculative Fiction) Collective meets regularly to discuss topics relating to SFF books and to share book recommendations across the genre.

## Indonesian Book Club

Indonesian Book Club offers the opportunity to explore the depth and breadth of diversity reflected in Indonesia's rich body of literature. Indonesian scholar Iven Manning sources works by Indonesian writers that encourage participants to think about Australia's relationship with its closest northern neighbour.

## Fem Book Club

Fem Book Club is an introduction to a diverse range of texts by women about women. Through informal conversation about each text, this book club focuses on the manifold experiences of being a woman through different moments in history and across varying communities.



AfroHeritage bookclub.





Illustration by Kelly Fliedner

## PEN Perth letter writing

PEN Perth letter writing is run by the Perth chapter of PEN International. Members of the public join members of PEN Perth to write to writers and journalists who have been imprisoned, and to governments who have imprisoned them seeking their release.

## Poetry Workshop

Poetry Workshop offers a safe and dynamic space for poets to craft their work and receive feedback from other poets. The workshops are free and focus on page poets who consider themselves to be emerging. These workshops are facilitated by Siobhan Hodge, who has a PhD in English literature and has published her poetry widely.

## Write Night

Write Night meets once a fortnight and facilitates two 40-minute writing blocks, distraction free, with prompts for those who need them. Coordinators Christopher Karsten and Emily Paull have encouraged and supported many emerging writers through these sessions.

## Internship Program

The Internship Program is run by the Centre to uphold its deep commitment to fostering the next generation of arts administrators. The Centre provided internships for four university students and two high school students.

## The Library

The Library is a much-loved space in the Centre for Stories, which initially started as a book nook where people from the community were welcome to come and enjoy a story from our shelves. On a warm morning in August 2019, John McCann came to the Centre with an idea. John volunteered to catalogue our library. With over 2500 books at the Centre, John has spent countless hours of his time cataloguing, scanning, reviewing, linking and organising our library. Soon, the Centre for Stories will have a fully functional library, with barcodes, online search functions, links to reviews, and access to relevant writer interviews.

John's background at the Writers Room in Albany and his involvement in the literary space meant his knowledge of WA literature and poetry, and so much more, was perfect in curating our library catalogue. We can't wait to share with you our new library and we are so thankful for the incredible generosity of John McCann.

# Testimonials



Kosta Lucas. Photo credit: Chris Gurney

“When I moved to Perth, to be honest, it was a different world altogether. I found myself at a complete loss and did not know how to go about with my creative pursuits but only until I found [the] Centre for Stories. One fine afternoon I simply walked into their cosy office only to discover that this was my place to be. The training I received there is certainly my asset for life. Not only did those workshops help me refine my craft but also made me come at peace with myself. I am glad I have found my home away from home where I can share my story with the rest of the world and become a part of theirs. For now, I know at the Centre all things are one.” – **Saadia Ahmed**

“I’m more confident in my abilities as a writer as well, which is something that I really struggled with before coming into the mentorship—I actually thought of my writing as a hobby or a dream that would never be realised in any material way. Now I’m ready to share my writing with the world.” – **Jay Anderson**

“[My mentor] has given me the confidence to create something—period. As a first-time author the very notion of creating written works for other people to see is a really daunting prospect when it’s no longer abstract.” – **Kosta Lucas**

“Since its opening, the Centre has opened minds, hearts and doors for the wider community of WA and beyond. Furthermore, the Centre is one of the very few welcoming spaces for people of colour and minority groups in Perth and is a leader in representing what our trains, streets and shopping centres really look like: diverse.”

– **Sukhjot Kaur Khalsa**

“As a migrant myself, I understand how hard it is to feel like one doesn’t “fit in” when one first arrives. It took me many years to establish myself here as a performer and with limited success compared to when I worked in London. Writing has kept me sane over the years, and I am so happy to support and encourage the endeavours of diverse writers.”

– **Vivienne Glance**



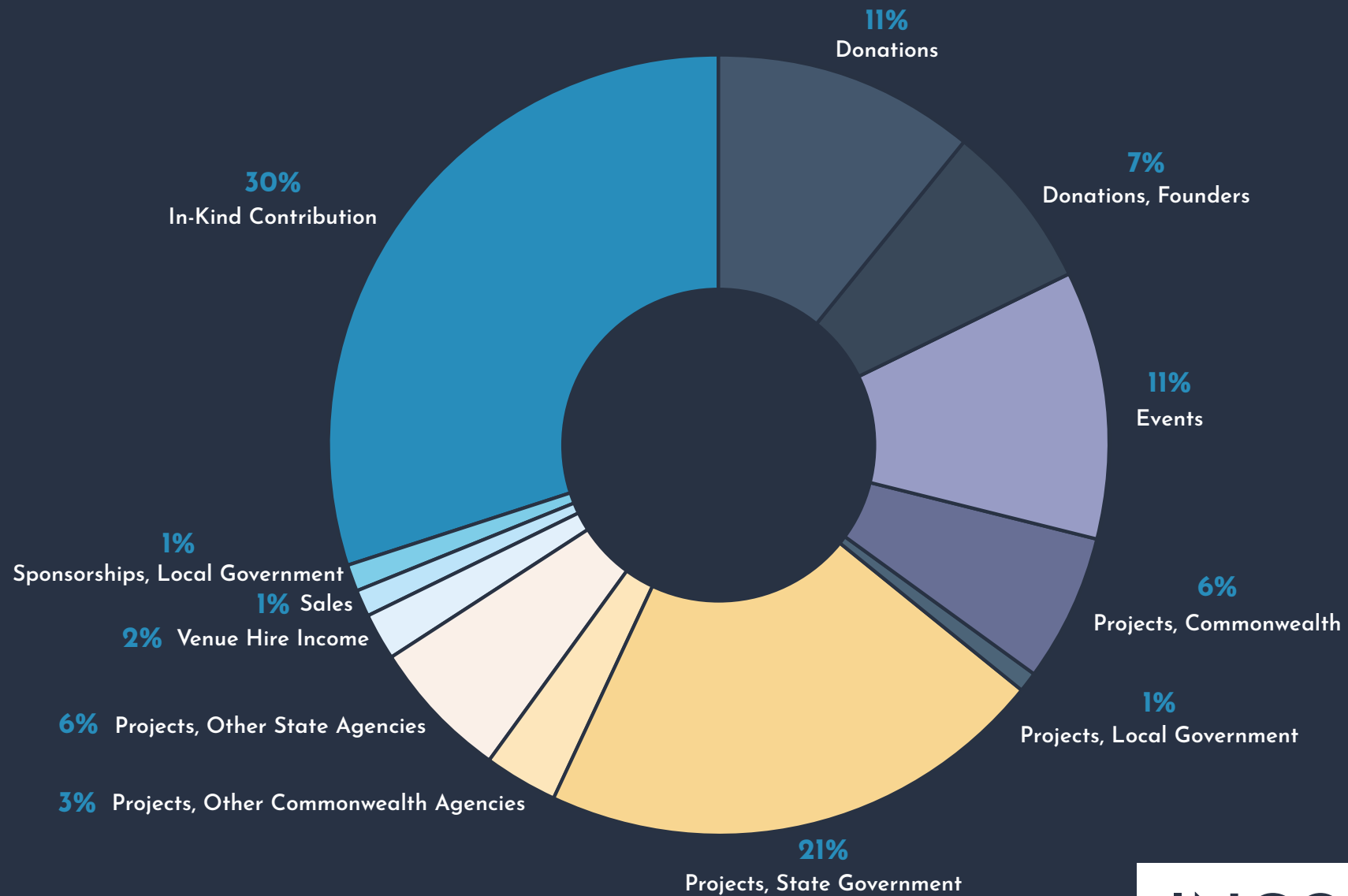
Vivienne Glance. Photo credit: Zal Kanga-Parabita



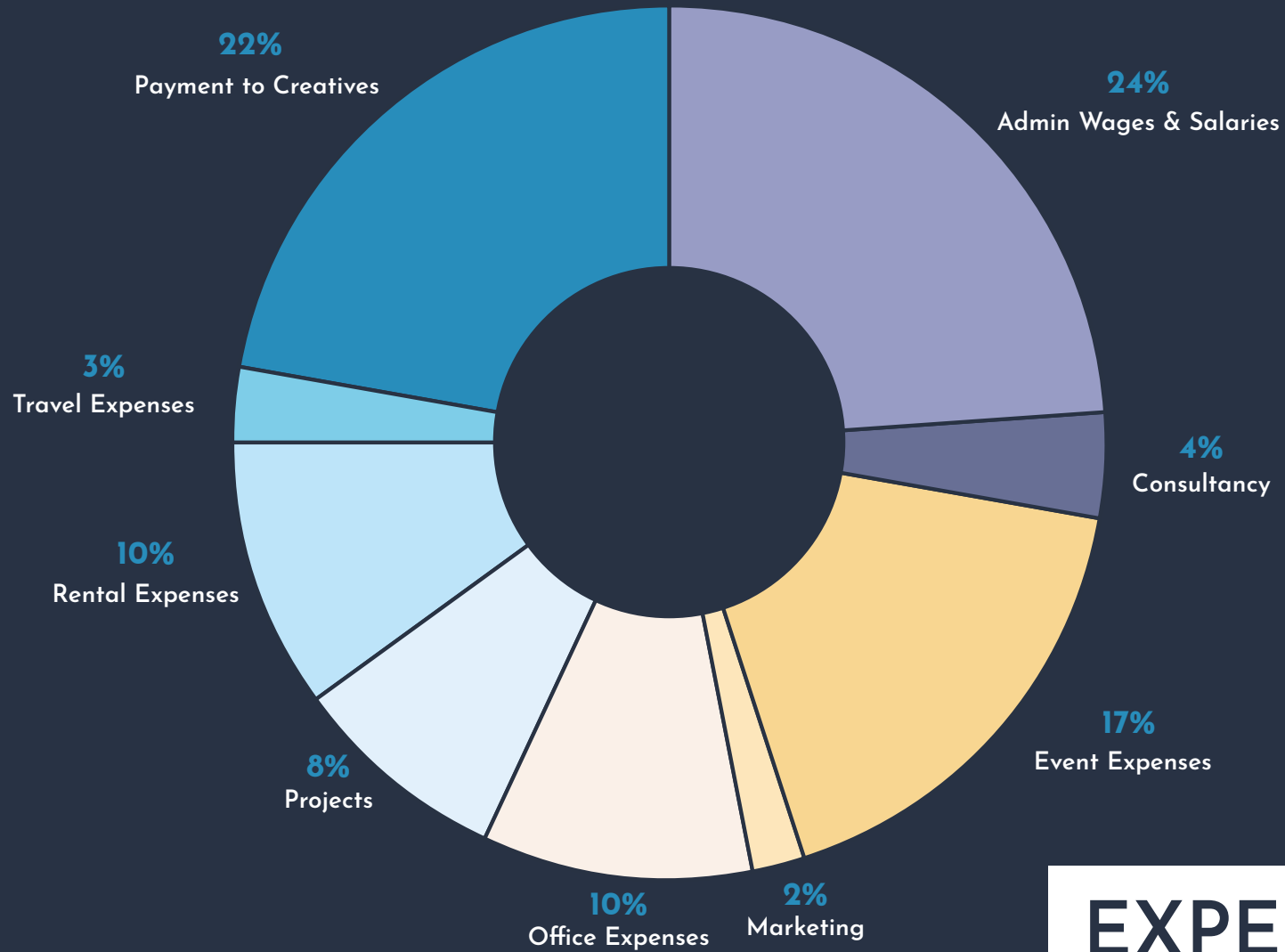


# Funding & Finances

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INCOME



# EXPENSES

# Supporters & Board

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**We thank our supporters who enable us to deliver programs that change lives.**

## Corporate Giving

We are grateful to MinterEllison for their generous sponsorship, which has enabled the Centre to provide training and story sharing from people in marginalised communities. We have also trained three MinterEllison staff in the craft of storytelling and six MinterEllison staff in interviewing techniques.

## Private Giving

Towards the end of 2019, we launched our private giving program. The Founders Circle enables us to train storytellers and present stories as podcasts and in print. Story Supporter donations allow us to support programs for marginalised youth. The Community Fund ensures our storytellers and facilitators are appropriately paid. We are grateful for the support of these donors who have given generously so we can continue our program of inclusion for emerging storytellers and their communities.

## Founders Circle (\$1500 and above)

Caroline and John Wood (Founders)

Julie Beeck

Vivienne Glance

Dr Rosemary Sayer and Terry Grose

Carolyn Hall

Peter and Joelle Larsen

Mary-Eileen Scanlan and Joe Longo

Catherine and Julius Matthys

MJ.

Mal Nairn

Robyn and Rod Quin

Baden Offord, Christopher Macfarlane

and John Ryan

Andrew Taylor

Anonymous

## Story Supporters (\$500-\$1499)

Leith Taylor and John Aquino

Sandy Dimovich

Neil and Stephanie Fernandes

Geoff Gallop

Jane, Leo and Matilda Gallop

Lynne and Peter Leonhardt

Janine Freeman MLA

Takako Shoji and Qunye Velaphi

Anonymous

Anonymous

## Community Fund Donors (<\$500)

71 individuals donated to the Community Fund

## Board

Coralie Bishop, Chair

Leo Gallop, Secretary

Raj Thethy, Treasurer

Jay Anderson, Board Member

Kanaga Dharmananda, Board Member

Neil Fernandes, Board Member

Raihanaty A Jalil, Board Member

Sabrina Dudgeon-Swift, Board Member

Caroline Wood, Board Member



# Funding Organisations



# Partnerships



# Sponsorship

MinterEllison

# Pro Bono Support







# Our Team

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## **Caroline Wood, Co-Founder and Director**

Caroline Wood has decades of diverse professional experience spanning academia, publishing and advocacy. She is responsible for advancing the vision and direction of the Centre, leading and managing people, fundraising and sponsorship development, and cementing the Centre's reputation as a leading creative organisation nationally.

## **Robert Wood, Creative Director**

Robert Wood is a poet with three published books and a PhD in Creative Writing. He is responsible for identifying and developing writing partnerships with local, national and international arts organisations and creatives, designing and delivering a program of activities for emerging writers.

## **Sisonke Msimang, Lead Story Trainer**

Sisonke Msimang is a renowned storyteller and the author of *Always Another Country* and *The Resurrection of Winnie Mandela*. She facilitates story-training workshops and training that empowers people to share their stories. Sisonke is also responsible for developing strategic alliances with international organisations that work in the oral storytelling space.

## **Logan Griffiths, Program and Communications Officer**

Logan Griffiths is a professional writer and project manager who previously managed the Australian Short Story Festival. She manages a number of literary and storytelling projects, coordinates storytellers and the team of interns, oversees social media, writes content for the website, and sends out the monthly newsletter.

## **Claudia Mancini, Producer and Events Coordinator**

Claudia Mancini is an arts facilitator and producer who has managed projects and events for Community Arts Network, Perth Festival, and the State Library of Western Australia. She supervises and coordinates all aspects of events, facilitates discussions, and collects and produces stories for the website and podcast.

## **Jay Anderson, Social Media Coordinator**

Jay Anderson is a writer, editor and arts worker. His writing has been published in various online journals and print anthologies, and he was recently awarded the KSP Writers' Centre CALD Fellowship. Jay is responsible for social media management.

## **Nina Thethy, Finance Officer**

Nina has extensive experience working in finance across a broad range of industries and is a member of the Certified Practising Accountants. She is responsible for preparing budgets and monitoring and reporting on expenditure.



[www.centreforstories.com](http://www.centreforstories.com)

