



# **WestWords**

*Sharing the wealth of words*

Western Sydney's Literature Development Organisation

**2018 Annual Review**

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## MAKING THE DIFFERENCE: STORIES OF SUCCESS

***Working with WestWords changed my life.***

***It's helped me with my confidence, it's helped me with my writing skills, with how I write, with the way I view writing. They basically made me a better person.***

Ali, aged 15, Granville Boys High School

Having worked with Granville Boys' High School over two years on multiple programs including the inaugural year-long *Landscape, Place & Me* program, in 2017 GBHS ran its first Extension English 1 class in over a decade. In 2018 this led to its first Extension 2 English class in as many years and we continued to work with the boys. All the boys became Prefects, Vice-Captain or Captain. Ali was Captain.



In 2017 we partnered with Varuna: The National Writers' House to run an Emerging Writers' Residential Program for culturally and linguistically diverse writers.

***I want to thank you WestWords for giving me this opportunity and showing me that being from a diverse background should be celebrated. I now have the confidence to pursue something I once feared and that's wonderful.***

Rawah Arja: 2017 resident

Rawah now has a contract with Giramondo to publish her manuscript.



***I would like to write and let you know how much WestWords means to our family.***

***My son Daniel has been attending WestWords Blacktown Writers' group for some years. He has enjoyed the lessons so much that he has caught a bus from Westmead to Blacktown to attend these sessions after school, come rain or shine. WestWords has given Daniel an outlet for his creative writing. Opportunities to have his work published and meet Bryan Brown (who was so gracious and talked with the students), social engagement with other young adults with similar literary interests, improve his writing skills and free tickets to Sydney Writer's Festival, have benefited him enormously. The companionship, friendship and fun outside the school classroom has been invaluable. When school gets tough it is wonderful to have something to look forward to where you feel accepted and mix with like-minded people. His attendance to WestWords dramatically improved his writing skills and assisted him greatly. Daniel was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the State for Studies of Religion 2017. I have made a donation to WestWords in the hope that you will continue to support the young adults of Western Sydney. The work WestWords does in Western Sydney is highly regarded by participants and their families.***

Peta: Daniel's Mum



Poet Maryam Azam and filmmaker/screenwriter Joseph Chebatte were 2017 WestWords' Western Sydney Emerging Writers Fellows. They each received a tailored program of mentorship, with Judith Beveridge and Bryan Brown respectively. In 2018 their work was published/produced.

## Chair's Report

2018 has been a successful year for WestWords.

We began as a project with Blacktown City Council a decade ago and incorporated in 2015, and in doing so relocated to Parramatta. In 2017 we outgrew our former premises and established the WestWords Centre for Writing at 91B Grose Street in North Parramatta.

That was achieved with the significant on-going financial support of Create NSW. We have also been the beneficiary of significant support from the Packer Family Foundation and Crown Resorts since our incorporation.

This year we welcomed the Dusseldorp Foundation for its support for the specific project *Landscape, Place and Me*. This allowed the reiteration of a year-long program first begun in 2016 which sees cohorts of Yr 9 and 10 students in Western Sydney and regional NSW engage in writing residencies and exchange of creative work. It culminates in a bush camp and then a publication, launched concurrently in both Dubbo and Parramatta.

The support of these organisations and with assistance from the Cultural Fund of the Copyright Agency, Campbelltown City Council, Blacktown City Council, Parramatta City Council and GalleryONE88 we have grown, creating centres across Western Sydney and we believe we are fulfilling our aim of embedding ourselves in the cultural life of Western Sydney.

As with all arts organisations, WestWords achieves far more than one could imagine given our minimal staffing. Thanks are due to the inexhaustible labour and the strategic thinking of our Executive Director Michael Campbell, ably supported by part-time staff: producer Michelle Rickerby, Hajer Al-awsi, Mark Tredinnick, James Roy and Eda Günaydin.

Thanks are also due to the Board and to our ambassadors: Bryan Brown AM and David Borger. With their support we look forward to furthering our vision of serving the needs of the young people of Western Sydney.



**Libby Gleeson AM**



## Executive Director's Report

In February 2016 WestWords brought together literature organisations working in or into Western Sydney for the first time to participate in a seminar and workshop entitled *Writing the West: Future Directions for Western Sydney's Literary Culture*. The outcomes of that day were a unified call for two actions: greater connectivity in the sector and a Western Sydney Centre for Writing. This Centre would be non-traditional, specific to the diverse cultures and languages of Western Sydney and be a highly visible focal point for the promotion, development and distinctiveness of the region and its peoples. I wrote, and presented the report to Create NSW, who in response commissioned us to undertake a formal Scoping Study. This report was delivered to Create NSW in April 2017 and released for publication in November. This process of extensive consultation has also provided us with the needs basis that is underpinning our strategic direction, programming decisions, business and operational model.

2018 has seen continued growth, achievement and change. Importantly, after the opening of three new centres in 2017, we consolidated our strategic positioning and business model with relatively small scale expansion – only opening one new centre in Blacktown. Elsewhere in this report you can read the statistics, context and stories of success that demonstrate the effectiveness and impactfulness of our approach and the work we do. One of the most important aspects of this work is the ongoing commitment to, and investment in, the people, the stories and the region. And most important of these are the emergent voices who carry the experiences they bring to this place and through their writing create new insights and stories of this, one of the most diverse, divergent and exciting regions in Australia.

So often you hear people talk of the disadvantaged, the marginalised. We don't see it that way. We are so proud of the children, young people, emerging and established writers we work with. We think they are rich beyond belief. They bring to their work understandings beyond anything I, or we, could know. It seems inadequate to say that our programs offer self-confidence and engagement. These young people are central to the story of what it is to be Australian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We offer the opportunity for them to work with professionals of the highest calibre, acting as role models and mentors, developing their skills and striving for excellence we give them agency, so they can be read and heard by people beyond what they could dream possible.

There are always more people than space to thank individually. So, thank you collectively to:

- Libby Gleeson AM and the rest of the Board of WestWords who understand that the achievements we all celebrate are the direct result of consistent, unglamorous work;
- Michelle Rickerby, our producer for the past 3.5 years, Eda Günaydin – associate producer, Hajer Al-awsi – program associate, Blacktown Program Manager – James Roy, Mark Tredinnick – Campbelltown Program Manager, Deb McInnes DMCP - publicist. Peg Thatcher – bookkeeper. We are a team, without which we could not have achieved what we have done;
- the 99 professional writers, editors and illustrators we have worked with this year.
- the 79 partnered organisations we work with, and the people within them who make those relationships possible and so pleasurable;
- the children, young people, emerging writers who engaged in our programs, challenging themselves willingly and bravely;
- And all those who support and assist us through their generosity and fore-sightedness, so we can serve the writers and writing of Western Sydney.

As we look to 2019 and beyond we seek to further diversify our income streams, attracting increased corporate and philanthropic support. We will increase our fee for service programs to sit alongside our work into the marginalised and low SES communities of Western Sydney. We will increase our internal capacity to enable us to engage more broadly with the community. We will fill our centres with activities that develop and celebrate our rich diversity/s through writing.



**Michael Campbell**



## ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

We ran:  
**104 activities**

including:

- The opening of a new centre for writing in Blacktown
- 7 in-school residencies
- 11 in-school workshops and masterclasses
- 5 residency programs for local, interstate, international emerging established writers and illustrators
- 27 public workshops, masterclasses & courses
- 3 writing groups
- 23 showcase events
- 6 publications
- 4 commissions
- 5 exhibitions, including 3 that toured WS
- 5 author tours to venues across WS
- 6 fellowships for emerging WS writers
- 2 project management of writing prizes
- 1 writing camp for 47 young adults from WS and regional NSW

In addition, through our centres, we offered space for writers to meet, network and write across four locations.



## WESTWORDS: WESTERN SYDNEY'S LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION OUR REMIT: GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY

- 9.1% of Australia's population lives in the Greater Western Sydney region.\*  
*That's 1 in 11 Australians.*
- 49.7% of Western Sydney's population is under the age of 35.\*
- GWS residents represent over half the world's population coming from more than 170 countries and speak over 100 different languages.#
- 33% of people in GWS were born in countries where English was not their first language - with India, China, Vietnam, Philippines, Lebanon, Iraq, Fiji, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Pakistan ranked highest.\*
- Greater Western Sydney has the third largest economy in Australia after Sydney and Melbourne CBDs.#
- The majority of new immigrants (60%) who come to Australia settle in GWS and over the past decade 50% of these arrivals were from Iraq and Sudan.#
- One-fifth of Australia's Aboriginal population is located in GWS, with the densest clustering being in Blacktown and the Macarthur region. Of these, 60% are aged under 24.\*



Sources: \* 2016 Census; # Regional Centre of Expertise, Western Sydney University



From zines created as part of WW Parramatta Artists Studios illustrator in residence, Mitch Vane's Urban Creatures zines workshops



## WHO?

WestWords is an independent not-for-profit cultural organisation with DGR status serving and located within Western Sydney with centres in Parramatta, Campbelltown and Katoomba. The nine-member board is led by award-winning author Libby Gleeson AM, with Bryan Brown AM and former Parramatta Lord Mayor and Western Sydney director of Sydney Chamber of Commerce, David Borger, as its ambassadors.

## WHAT WE DO

- WestWords celebrates and champions the people, places and cultures that are at the heart of Western Sydney.
- We promote and encourage reading, writing and story-making by children and young people living in Western Sydney and beyond. In so doing we develop and enhance community sustainability through cultural vitality.
- We provide pathways of opportunity for young people to develop authentic and articulate voices and showcase them through innovative literature-based, multi-arts programs.
- We support the ongoing careers of professional writers and illustrators.

To achieve these goals we deliver a comprehensive program of residencies, fellowships, workshops, performances, presentations and publications.

## WHY?

We believe the power of literature and literacy (written, oral and visual), self-expression and creativity can change lives and the experiences of communities.

## HOW?

We work with like-minded individuals and organisations to identify the need, imagine the potential, then work together with our partners to create programs that are uniquely suited to the people and the context.

## WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

We work with writers and artists of all ages and at all stages of their career with a strategic focus on children and young people. We collaborate with teachers, schools, universities, community and arts organisations. We target culturally rich and diverse communities that historically aren't recognised for the value of their cultural expression, frequently appearing as low on SES indicators. We believe in long-term engagement rather than short-term intervention with programs and partnerships running over the course of years. We invest in bringing established authors and artists to mentor our participants.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- We bring cross cultural communities together to learn from each other.
- We break down barriers through sharing experiences, identifying common issues and concerns.
- We generate fresh artistic insights for the creative expression of Western Sydney voices.
- We create a platform for emerging voices to realise their potential.
- We create career pathways for established writers to mentor successive generations.
- We develop confidence and self-agency to the young people we work with.
- We develop skills for life.



## REACH

*In 2018*

**over 21,000 people**  
were engaged with our  
activities

**5,863 people**  
directly participated in  
our programs – that's an  
increase of 25% on 2017  
participation rates

with an additional  
**over 15,000 people**  
attending our exhibitions

## WestWords' Centres for Writing across Western Sydney



### WESTWORDS WHAT IS LITERATURE?

**Literature**  
is when the craft of writing itself carries some of its meaning.

*What does that mean?*  
Anyone can write a shopping list – that's utilitarian.

*But...*  
But a poem written in the form of a shopping list can provide a detailed character portrait of the buyer's personal circumstances: their income, their culture, what they like to do for leisure, whether they are single or have a family, etc.

Literature is when the craft of writing tells us something about ourselves and the world we live in.

**Writing**  
is writing in all its forms: from fiction to poetry, from playwriting to lyrics, from slam to essays, from screenwriting to...

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, WestWords opened our doors on a new Centre for Writing in Parramatta. This initiative was taken in response to significant consultation with the sector. We recognise that in our role as a service organisation it is incumbent on us to provide pathways of opportunity for the development of the authentic and articulate voices from the region. Writers need space to work and to feel themselves part of a supportive and well-resourced community. We recognise that need, and in response launched four new Writers' Rooms spanning Western Sydney, located in Campbelltown (Wedderburn), Katoomba, Blacktown and Parramatta.



Each centre has its own distinct character. The Parramatta Centre allows us to host writers in residence; to hold workshops and events on-site; to host exhibitions; provide affordable venue space for like-minded organisations and sub-let additional offices to bring together a community of artists. Wedderburn offers the atmosphere of a retreat and a closeness to nature that is also a distinct part of the Western Sydney experience. Katoomba sits within Gallery ONE88, surrounded by paintings and the local Mountains' visual arts community. Blacktown is within Blacktown Library: Stanhope Gardens.





## The program

Developing the skills of Western Sydney writers from the earliest of ages is core business for WestWords. Activities include workshops and masterclasses, residencies in community, in-school and after-school; holiday programs; mentorships (in person and online); fellowships; facilitated short and continuous writers' groups; creative writing courses for HSC students; and so on.



## In partnership with schools

Key to providing the best opportunities to the children and young people of Western Sydney is working in partnership with schools, delivering individually tailored programs with professional writers, illustrators, editors, actors and directors. We believe building relationships with schools, their staff and students over time is critical to providing the best possible outcomes both for the students and the professional development of the teachers. The 28 schools we collaborated with in 2018 included schools we have been working with for a number of years as well as new relationships. We offered a range of free (thanks to the generous support of our donors and partners) and fee for service programs. These schools included:

- Parramatta North PS
- Barnier PS
- Woodland Park Rd PS
- Granville Boys HS
- Macarthur Girls HS
- Ellison PS
- Cabramatta West PS
- Arthur Philip HS
- Mt Druitt PS
- Punchbowl Boys HS
- Patrician Brothers, Blacktown
- Henry Kendall HS
- Northmead Creative and Performing Arts HS
- Delroy Campus Dubbo College
- Cherrybrook Technical HS
- Parramatta East PS
- *and more!*

Each school's engagement is created in close consultation with the teaching staff to uniquely tailor the program's offerings and includes consideration of the choice of writer. These engagements are frequently characterised by author events, masterclasses, as well as short and long term residencies. The latter typically run for 3-6 weeks, and can be up to two terms.



As with any customised program the genres of writing covered are many. In 2018 we ran programs

focussing on creative writing techniques, speculative fiction, crime writing, poetry, slam, reportage, illustration and editing. We also held workshops bringing to life Shakespeare's language and plays to life, complete with actors and directors. These activities sat alongside tours and visits to WS schools by authors including Jacqueline Harvey, Angela May George, Tim Harris, James Hart, RA Spratt, Belinda Murrell, George Ivanoff, Mitch Vane, Sara Saleh.

***WestWords brings critically acclaimed, published authors into the schools' environment to not only offer their experience but also to act as role models for the young people we work with. We believe those authors who have been through the crucible of publishing their own work have unique insight into skills that will enhance effective communication, and building of articulate, confident voices, assured of themselves in the world.***



**In 2018 we worked with 28 schools across Western Sydney**

***We delivered 7 in-school residencies and 11 in-school workshops and masterclasses and toured to 12 schools with author events from some of Australia's best writers and illustrators inspiring a love of reading and writing.***

***Teacher Development***  
Sitting alongside the work we do with teachers in schools we partnered with Western Sydney University, Sydney University, Sydney Theatre Company and Art Gallery of NSW to run Professional Development for teachers.



## Writer Development

### Western Sydney Emerging Writers' Fellowships

The 2018 Western Sydney Emerging Writers' Fellowships offered three Fellowships to emerging writers aged 16 years and over. The program is aimed at writers on the brink of potential publication. In 2018, one of the Fellowships granted was for an emerging writer specifically writing for children and/or young people. The 2018 fellows are Zoe Ghani, Fiona Murphy and Annie Zhang. As part of their fellowship winners receive a program of tailored mentorship. The mentors are Alison Fraser, Jessica White and Chi Vu respectively. As an example of our strategic approach to writer development Zoe was a 2018 recipient of the WestWords residency program at Varuna: The National Writers' House.



With the support of the Cultural Fund of the Copyright Agency the fellowship program has been running since 2011. Recent recipients have included Peter Polites who worked on the manuscript for his debut novel *Down the Hume* (published 2017, Hachette), Maryam Azam whose poetry collection, *The Hijab Files* was published by Giramondo in 2018, and essayists Sheila Pham and Eda Gunaydin whose work went on to be published in *Griffith Review*, *Voiceworks* and *Meanjin*. In addition Joseph Chebatte got funding to produce his short film screenplay, *Entrenched*, released in June 2018. Previous mentors have included Maxine Beneba Clarke, Melina Marchetta, Judith Beveridge, Bryan Brown AM, Sara Knox and Walter Mason.



***I am really, really grateful to you and your team at WestWords for choosing to partner me up with an editor and for finding Alison. I am over the moon about this and it's fundamentally making my manuscript worlds better. I just had to let you know this is a life changing***

***experience for me and no matter what happens I will be grateful to you for the chance and to Alison for her brains***

Zoe Ghani: 2018 Fellow



***Without WestWords there would be no book.***  
Peter Polites: 2017 Fellow

***Providing fellowships for Western Sydney writers is an integral part of making sure that we hear, honour and support the diverse and dynamic stories of the region.***

Felicity Castagna: author *The Incredible Here and Now*, winner of the 2015 Prime Minister's Award – Young Adult.

### WHAT PREVIOUS FELLOWS HAVE SAID

**Eda Günaydin (2016)**  
*WestWords is an organisation that truly puts its money where its mouth is with regards to empowering people from Western Sydney in the arts, and strengthening our community.*

*Every young writer from Western Sydney that I've spoken to wants this Fellowship! This opportunity has opened more doors for me, as well as for many Fellows who have come before me, than any other opportunity I've had in my career.*

**Tamar Chnorhokian: (2016)**

*This rare opportunity to be mentored by Melina Marchetta is both exciting and invaluable.*

**COPYRIGHTAGENCY**  
CULTURAL FUND





**Community residencies**

In 2018 we partnered with a number of different arts organisations to provide residencies for writers and illustrators at various stages of their careers, demonstrating our commitment to providing strategic opportunities for writers at various stages of their careers.

**Pinerolo: The Children’s Book Cottage**

In 2018 we offered two emerging illustrators a week long residency at Pinerolo at Blackheath. The aim of this opportunity is to extend illustrators’ knowledge of picture book creation and design, the process of publishing and the publishing industry. Working on a designated project Eddie Abd and Maxine Hamilton were given daily consultation with mentor Margaret Hamilton AM, a professional publisher of picture books for over thirty years.



**Varuna: The National Writers’ House**



In October we partnered with Varuna: The National Writers’ House to give for four emerging culturally and linguistically diverse writers from Western Sydney – Pola Fanous, Zoe Ghani, Patrick Forrest and Jason Gray – the chance to spend a week at Varuna to write in seclusion and with live-in mentor and Western Sydney writer Luke Carman.

**The Blume Illustrated Mentorship Project**

For the first time WestWords partnered with *Blume Illustrated* magazine to offer three mentorship programs to young designers, illustrators, and writers aged between 18 and 24. The successful applicants: Tessa Burton (Illustration/Design), Pat Alan Doyle (Design/Writing), Annabel Pettit (Writing) each received an internship on the magazine, professional support and skills development mentorship from both Blume and WestWords along with space at The Writers’ Den, Katoomba. The outcomes will feature in the 2019 issue of *Blume Illustrated* Magazine and the associated Blume exhibitions.

**Sydney Review of Books**

A new partnership for 2018 between WestWords and the *Sydney Review of Books* gave the opportunity for Western Sydney writers to write an essay on place for publication in the *Sydney Review of Books*. The successful applicant, Anjali Roberts, received a two-week residency at WestWords Centre for Writing in Parramatta with a \$1000 stipend and editorial oversight. Publication in the *Sydney Review of Books* will take place in April 2019.



**Liverpool Remembers: Canary Girls**

*Let me tell you a story now:  
“Peace! World War ends. Armistice signed”  
Fears all astray, slow smiles show how  
The Canaries finally shined.*

*“Peace! World War ends. Armistice signed”  
With tainted skin but at what cost?  
The Canaries finally shined,  
Love and unity were not lost.*

*With tainted skin but at what cost?  
Grins and laughter, children clutch  
Love and unity were not lost  
Familiarity of touch.*

*Grins and laughter, children clutch  
Fears all astray, slow smiles show how  
Familiarity of touch  
Will tell you of the story now  
Faaiza Yr 9*

Women who were recruited to work in munitions factories during WWI were known as the Canary Girls because the chemicals involved in the making of the ammunition turned their skin yellow.



## Writer Development

### **Tulis: Australian-Indonesian writing exchange**

*Tulis* (Too-lis) was a two-way Australian-Indonesian writing exchange for established writers made possible through a partnership with Asialink Arts, WestWords, Varuna: The National Writers' House, Sydney Writers' Festival, Komunitas Salihara in Jakarta and Ubud Writers' & Readers' Festival.



With support from the Australian Indonesian Institute this initiative brought Indonesian writer, Dias Novita Wuri, to Australia for a four-week residency at Varuna: The National Writers' House, then onto WestWords for a two-week placement/residency and participation in the Sydney Writers' Festival. In a reciprocal arrangement Sydney writer Annee Lawrence spent five weeks at Komunitas Salihara, (Jakarta) before participating in the 2018 Ubud Writers' & Readers' Festival.

***WestWords gave me so many new experiences and substantial trainings and workshops that I didn't know I needed until I had them.***

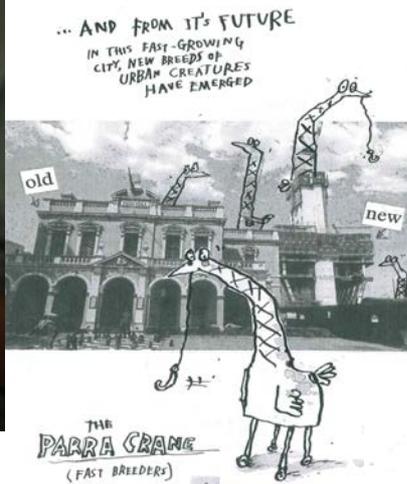
Dias Novita Wuri *Tulis* recipient

### WESTWORDS WHAT IS LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT?

We develop **the writers:** giving writers at all stages of their careers, from pre-school onwards, strategic opportunities to develop their craft and the skills development to sustain their careers.

### **Parramatta Artists Studios**

The 2018 WestWords Illustrator in Residence was Mitch Vane. This two-week residency for an interstate writer/illustrator combines the opportunity for a writer to concentrate on the development of their own work alongside a series of community engagements including events, workshops and visits to schools and libraries. Mitch ran workshops with children and young adults of varying ages, asking them to imagine the creatures that would live within the Urban Jungle of Parramatta, creating zines detailing the creatures' lives and habitats.





**Writing competitions**



**What Matters?**

Now in its tenth year, *What Matters?* writing competition invites students from years 5-12 from across NSW, Vic, WA, Tasmania and the ACT to write a 400-600 word piece on ‘what matters’ to them and why – fact or fiction, poetry or prose. The program is run by the Whitlam Institute. WestWords’ Executive Director Michael Campbell is one of the judges and WestWords provides one of the participating schools from NSW with the opportunity to host an author at their school.

The author is selected in consultation with the school and the interests of the students. Clare Zorn was Henry Kendall High School’s first choice and with pleasure she agreed giving a presentation to the school along with writing workshops to Yr 7 students.

**Liverpool Remembers**

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and WestWords collaborated with local high schools within the Liverpool LGA for the Armistice Poetry Prize. 2018 marked a century since the signing of the Armistice that ended the Great War. To commemorate, Liverpool Remembers ran a poetry competition inviting poems from students in Yrs 7-12 that captured ideas about celebration and reflection.

**I read**

WestWords, in partnership with Blacktown City Libraries and Blacktown City Council, ran the 2018 Mayoral Creative Writing Prize open to people 8yrs old to adult. We received 178 entries and the prizes were awarded by the Mayor Cr Stephen Bali. The judges were impressed by the uniform high quality and the creativity in response to the competition’s provocation: *I Read*.



**Books**

*Taste like, fluffy balls of rolling words like cotton candy.*

*Smells like, blooming roses and coffee coming from behind.*

*Sounds like, the progression of turning pages.*

*Looks like, invisible friends casted within pages waiting to be revealed.*

*Feels like, adventure, addiction, reality.*

Felicity aged 12



***Across the Sea, Lies a New Me***  
*My only hope, my only fear*  
*I’m starting to regret coming here*  
*Grief, I feel it disappear*  
*Reaching in, I grab my heart*  
*After all, this is a new start*  
*Tonight I’ll sleep, in a new home*  
*In a new place, I’ve never known*  
*On a new bed, but enough is said*  
*Now that I’m safe, my future is clear*

Dana Rose:  
 Highly Commended Poetry 8-11yrs



# Parracons.

A Poetry Trail around Parramatta CBD and Parklands.



Discover the hidden histories of Parramatta with this poetic walk across the CBD. Uncover stories of convicts, war-time battalions, and 20<sup>th</sup>

Parracons is a **FREE**, interactive experience, and exciting way to explore Parramatta on foot.

**Delve into your Parracons adventure today!**

Download the Story City app [westwords.com.au](http://westwords.com.au)

Available on:



## Parracons

Parracons Poetry Trail is a version of literary pokemon. This trail combines poetry created by Yr 8 students from Arthur Philip High School as well as emerging and established poets, with commissioned musical scores and videography. As the trail guides you to a 'Parracon' (a Parramatta icon) the poems, videos, music and hidden histories of Parramatta will pop up on the mobile device. Significant places across Parramatta city, include the Roxy Cinema, Old Government House, Gasworks Bridge, and the site of Howell's Mill, the Boer War Memorial and the Parramatta Town Hall. The student poems were the result of a series of workshops facilitated by Miro Bilborough and all the poems are read by actor Ele Stankiewicz and Mark Treddinick.

This project forms part of WestWords' overall strategy of bringing cross-generational and cross-cultural creative endeavours into new forms of delivery beyond the book and into the digital era so they can be appreciated in new ways by new audiences.

The project was made possible through the generous support of Story City, City of Parramatta, Packer Family Foundation, Crown Resorts Foundation and Create NSW,



## WESTWORDS WHAT IS LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT?

We develop **the artform:** Working inter-artform, inter-culturally and inter-linguistically we push the boundaries of what literature can be.

### Old Government House

*A woman sits alone  
Alone on a bench  
A bench in an empty field  
Which only has one tree.  
A tree stands alone,  
In a field, a large field  
In front of a house, an old house  
The oldest house, the Old Government House.  
She is waiting  
She is waiting for whom?  
She doesn't know.  
The tree doesn't know.*

Ceethu: Yr 8 Arthur Philip High School

### Parramatta River

*Stories and secrets,  
Life within,  
Within each tree.  
Within all scars.  
  
As the eels surge, swiftly,  
Soft winds create a scene.  
A scene within the waters,  
With each gush,  
Dragging you away.*

Pavalli: Yr 8 Arthur Philip High School





## Landscape, Place & Me

In 2016 WestWords ran the inaugural *Landscape, Place and Me* program. The idea grew out of a conversation with a teacher who had transferred from a Western Sydney high school to Lightning Ridge. Discussing these disparate groups of young people we were struck, not by difference, but by the similarities of the issues and experiences they were facing – issues around marginalisation, poverty and trauma, and how the students’ growing understandings of the world around them were internalised. What was different was the landscape they saw outside their front doors.

We were thrilled that Dusseldorp Forum agreed to support the year-long program in its second iteration. With its support we were able to extend to three schools: two from Sydney’s urban west, Granville Boys High



School and Arthur Phillip High School, and one from regional NSW, Delroy Campus Dubbo College. James Roy conducted residencies for each of the schools, exploring themes of belonging, environment and their place within their communities. The work generated from these workshops was taken through an editing process then exchanged among the schools for critiquing. This acted as an introduction prior to

the students coming together for a week-long camp in the small town of Baradine, near the Warrumbungles. There the 47 students, 6 teachers, James and WestWords staff encountered many new experiences. For many students this was the first time sitting around a fire; toasting marshmallows; looking through a telescope to see the craters on the moon, the stripes of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn and new galaxies being formed; being close to a horse; being west of the Blue Mountains; meeting a Muslim; spending a night away from home and family. We then published a book of their writing and launched it simultaneously in Parramatta and Dubbo via Skype. For these young people it was transformational - as writers, as people.

Amanda Bateup from Dubbo College won the short story section of the 2018 Patrick White Indigenous writing competition run by the NSW Aboriginal Education Council. From the media release: ***Amanda was one of the students at Delroy who had been part of the 2018 WestWords program, which focused on developing creative writing skills. The program saw students work with children’s author James Roy to develop ideas, write drafts and ultimately publish their works. “WestWords contributed so positively to my students”.***

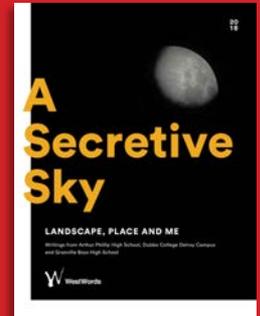
Rebecca Brown: supervising teacher Delroy Campus Dubbo College.

***The students are now more confident to express themselves in writing and not hide behind their inhibitions. It is always difficult to encourage boys to write freely and with sincere emotion. I feel that the students who were involved in the project are now more capable of sharing their thoughts and feelings in a meaningful way. They are also more socially adept and able to make new friends easily, a trait that will help them succeed in the future.***

Amer Etri: Head of English, Granville Boys High School

***The experience throughout the process was nothing short of sublime. The guidance and encouragement provided by James and Michael was a breath of fresh air. Writing without interruption and distraction with the assistance of a notable author seemed like a rare opportunity in and of itself, and that alone would have been an enriching moment for our kids. However, that was only the beginning. It was not only a journey into the decay of the Australian landscape, with many crossing the mountains for the first time. It was also the decay of inhibitions, of walls they had put up to keep themselves within the safety and familiarity of their local community. Their writing grew with their expanding horizons. This is an experience that they will cherish long after they have left school.***

Shannon Akins: Year Adviser, Yr 10, Arthur Phillip High School



### A SECRETIVE SKY

*The wild moon commands  
a secretive sky*

*Just enough to see the  
mischievous*

*The hatred fades, authority  
awakens.*

Shaelee  
Delroy Campus  
Dubbo College

*This whole experience has given me an opportunity to see new sides of everything, including the world, literature, my teachers, those I care and have come to care for and even myself. I’d like to thank everyone for this opportunity. I wouldn’t hesitate to go back in time and live it all over again.*

Dilara  
Arthur Phillip High School



## Public Programming: Writer & Audience Development

Through our public programming we offered both showcasing events as well as workshops, masterclasses and holiday programs. Run through our various centres or partnering with a diverse range of organisations, our activities sometimes transcend the easy categorisation into writer or audience development. For example, showcasing work from school residencies, workshops and writing groups is also about providing a focal point and outcome to the developmental work they have undertaken. Exhibitions of illustrators' work have accompanying workshops; workshops series morph into writing groups; author tours to schools culminate in holiday workshops. It is a strategic, embedded approach aimed to build strong networks, pathways and support.

### Author tours, workshops, masterclasses, holiday programs and writers' groups

- Angela May George toured to primary schools in the Blacktown LGA talking about her book, *Out: "I'm called an asylum seeker, but that's not my name."* in which a little girl and her mother flee their homeland, making a long and treacherous journey by boat to seek asylum.



- As part of Mitch Vane's Parramatta Illustrator in Residence program she gave holiday workshops at the Parramatta Artists Studios to children from 9-14yrs old.
- Writer Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah from Macquarie University approached WestWords to collaborate on a Stage 6 creative writing workshop with students from multiple schools as part of an ARC research project, focusing on themes of diversity, multiculturalism and discrimination.

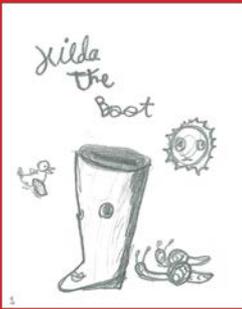
- We partnered with Penguin Random House and Koala to tour winners of the 2018 Koala Awards to six schools across the Blue Mountains. The Koala Awards are awards are judged by young readers from all over NSW. Authors and illustrators included Tim Harris, James Hart, RA Spratt, Belinda Murrell, Jules Faber and George Ivanoff.
- In partnership with Parramatta Libraries we ran a series of *Storyrooms*. For varying ages each *Storyroom* runs afterschool at Parramatta Library over five weeks where children and young people spend four weeks building their writerly skills before presenting their work to friends, family and staff in the fifth. Gabrielle Tozer and Matt Cosgrove each facilitated a *Storyroom*. We also ran after school illustration workshops with Cheryl Orsini for 9-12 yr olds at the library.



- We partnered with Parramatta Artists Studios and *Lost in Books* to present a panel discussion about writing and illustrating bilingual picture books for diverse cultures. This was followed by a three week practical workshop series with illustrator/publisher Wayne Harris.
- We ran two writers' groups, one in Katoomba growing out of one of our workshop series, the other the writers' group in Blacktown which has been running now for six years for teenagers from the region, and facilitated by Siobhan Colman.
- At Casula Performing Arts Centre's Way Out West children's festival we ran a day of poetry workshops with Harry Laing which culminated in participants performing their works.

Short and extended workshops at our various centres included:

- Mitch Vane and Jacqueline Harvey joined forces to offer a writing and illustrating holiday workshop at Parramatta where the participants both wrote and drew the characters they had created;
- Jacqueline Harvey also ran writing workshops in Wedderburn with young aspiring writers coming from across Sydney;
- *Writing Place* with Mark Tredinnick, and Aboriginal writers Kirli Saunders and Ethan Bell which included a walk in the Dharawal National Park;



by Hazel



- *Everything you need to succeed in HSC English Extension 2* with Felicity Castagna;
  - *Now What?!* Rewriting the first draft workshop series led by Inez Baranay;
  - Over five sessions James Roy guided the participants through the world of characters, idea-harvesting, ‘killer’ beginnings, and editing like a reader. The participants went on to form the Katoomba Writers’ Group;
  - *School for Style: Creative Writing Masterclasses* with Mark Tredinnick at Wedderburn attracted participants from across Sydney, and from Melbourne;
  - In May we developed a four day program for a group of 24 post-graduate students from the University of Washington giving them an introduction to the literature and literary and library services of Western Sydney;
- And more!



### Audience Development

Developing audiences for the written cultural expressions of Sydney’s West allows the region to see itself and its experiences being reflected back to itself, and builds a complex, rich identity that reaches into those communities. Our programs also showcase some of Australia’s best writers, providing access to these writers and to literature close to where audiences live and work.

### Australian Children’s Laureate

WestWords was proud to present the first public event for the new Australian Children's Laureate for 2018/19 Morris Gleitzman. Held at Katoomba’s Carrington Hotel the event was a sell-out leaving all who attended very inspired about the future of children's literature in Australia.



### 1000 Books Before School

WestWords partnered with Parramatta City Libraries to present 1000 Books Before School. The program is an initiative aimed at children aged 0-5 years. The program was launched by the Lord Mayor Cr Andrew Wilson, Matt and Bec Stanton and seeks to arm families, preschools, playgroups and child-care centres in the Parramatta region with easy access to, and the knowledge that reading 1000 books with their child/children prior to them beginning school will prepare them for a lifetime of learning and a love of reading.

### A Touch of Poetry

A series of poetry evenings held was held at Castle Hill Library and at WestWords Centre of Writing Parramatta. Convened by David Adès it showcased some of our most respected poets including Felicity Plunkett, Judith Beveridge, Mark Tredinnick, Andrew Taylor, Michelle Cahill and Eileen Chong.

### Alive 90.5FM



From August WestWords appeared fortnightly on Alive 90.5 FM’s *Point of View* with Aparna Vats showcasing the writers, writing and programming of WestWords. Aparna has been a radio presenter for more than 30 years both locally and internationally both on commercial and community radio stations. Established in 1992 the community radio station broadcasts across Western Sydney including Parramatta, Cumberland and The Hills.



## WESTWORDS WHAT IS LITERATURE DEVELOPMENT?

We develop **the audiences**, creating the opportunities for audiences to experience the writing emanating from this unique region. We do this through showcasing writers and their works online, in publications and at events.



**Northreads**  
from  
**Gunpowder Winter**

*Peeking out at the dawn  
fading before the grey sky  
of a gunpowder winter  
keeps me occupied while  
I'm crammed in this  
cutout mattress  
on the tray of this  
dilapidated Japanese  
truck.*

Yuden Yr 10  
Northmead Creative and  
Performing Arts High  
School

**WestWords 2018 Publications**

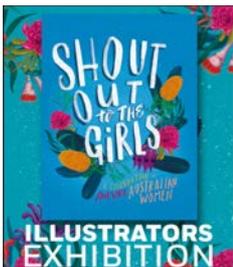
The publications WestWords produces are direct results from our programs. We invest in giving them the highest possible production values so they look like a book you might buy in a bookshop. We do this because the publications are a marker of the value we accord the contributors and their stories. This is particularly important in communities that are marginalised or low SES. The artwork is a combination of commissioned and student work.

- *Parracons* showcases poetry created by Yr 8 Arthur Philip HS students, and emerging and established poets in response to historical icons of Parramatta. In a form of literary pokemon you experience the poetry on your mobile device as you walk the poetry trail. The poetry is accompanied by commissioned video, music, actors readings and historical notes.
- *A Secretive Sky* is the resulting work of the *Landscape, Place and Me* project, a year-long engagement with Arthur Philip High School, Granville Boys High School and Delroy Campus Dubbo College.
- *Urban Forest Zine Collection* brought together zines created by children and young people participating in a series of community and in-school residencies in and around Parramatta as part of Mitch Vane's Illustrator in Residence at Parramatta Artists' Studios. In those zines the participants imagined the creatures that inhabit the Urban Forest of a changing Parramatta.
- *Northreads: An Anthology of Short Writings from Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School* was created from a residency with Luke Carman with the school's first creative writing club.
- *Close Enough* was born out of a youth-led experimental publishing project held over 10 weeks at Auburn Youth Centre. With training and mentorship from a group of established writers, photographers, designers and illustrators the group of young men explored suburban identities.
- *The Big Black Thing: Chapter 2* emerges out of our partnership with Sweatshop. It features work from the Western Sydney Writers' Group, residencies undertaken in Sir Joseph Banks High School and Lurnea High School, alongside the work of more established writers. The associate editor was Shirley Le, a WestWords Western Sydney Emerging Writers Fellow.
- *Bent not Broken* showcases ten years of writing from Canterbury-Bankstown annual Youth Writing Competition, bringing together the top three winners and the most highly commended writers from each year between 2009 and 2018.

## Touring exhibitions

We toured three exhibitions into libraries across Western Sydney, including Auburn, Blacktown, Liverpool, Penrith and Hawkesbury libraries, with WestWords providing complementary writing and illustration workshops:

- *Cover to Cover* is collection of Roald Dahl book covers from around the world providing an insight into the different cultural perspectives on the same work. Cover to Cover was originally part of the 2017 Children's Festival of Moving Stories presented in partnership with WestWords. Accompanying this exhibition were *Revolting Rhymes* workshops run by Matt Cosgrove.



- Inspired by the children's book *Shout Out to The Girls: A Celebration of Awesome Australian Women* this showcases some of the beautiful artworks featured within the book; each illustration is created by Australian women, celebrating famous Australian female achievements.
- Sadami Konchi's illustrations to the 2017 residency project *Writers' Club* with Parramatta North Public School went to Penrith Library.

- At the Centre for Writing in Parramatta we exhibited:
  - The WestWords' commissioned, original artworks by Tony Flowers and Sadami Konchi for two of our publications resulting from residencies at Tahmoor Public School and Parramatta North Public School. Subsequently each artist has generously donated their work to WestWords.
  - *Picture Gallery* is a collection of exceptional contemporary Australian children's book illustrators on display at WestWords Parramatta.



My Heart for Ransom,  
When I Lost You

*I call your name,  
more than all the stars,  
but still no response.  
I picture your deep majestic  
eyes, like an ocean,  
Home in a soul.  
But the only sparks I have,  
are the liquid droplets from  
the tear of your goodbye.  
I picture your hair which  
reminds me of the golden  
sunrise on a winter morning.  
But now all the worth and  
light has set....  
and darkness creeps out  
from the corner.*

*I hear the chuckles of your  
billy goat laughter.  
I hear the sweet voice,  
sweeter than the harmony  
of spring dusk.  
I feel the touch of your soft  
hand, softer than our  
Oscar's fur.  
I reach for your hand  
But no one is there...*

*I still read your last letter,  
which scars me deeper than  
a knife.  
The cancer killed you  
but it slow poisoned and  
ripped my soul.  
Your letter that I read  
held my heart for ransom.  
Hurt me like whizzing bullets  
screaming for my blood...  
and heart*

*You were my Achilles heel...  
When I read those words  
you were dead as faded  
dreams  
To end sin  
By that devil's hammer...  
I was the knight in shining  
armour in your fairy tale...  
But the chapter's closed and  
the happily ever after  
Has gone away like a faded  
dream to end poverty.  
Kisna Aged 14*

## From our publications

### Northreads: Afterlife's Illusions

*There it stood above me. The celestial space had become pitch black, the glittering and luminous diamond-like stars had disappeared, leaving a dome of void-black. My body had been catapulted into the air and vigorously jolted back into my seat. My eyes grew heavy with fatigue until I could not resist its relentless nagging. I sat there slowly drifting into the silence sleep brings, thinking of bygone times, recalling old scenes and summoning half-forgotten faces. Thoughts and memories flooded my mind. Bridge, dad, car, river. These images flickered through my head in a perpetual pattern. They were the last things I saw before my body tensed and was submerged into the icy lake.*

Ashu, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School

### A Secretive Sky: Guardians of the Night

*Walking, alone contemplating about what's good  
Just myself, the moon and the wailing woods.  
The dark tall figures, the trees, almost moving  
And the sounds of the owls hooting.  
My flashlight just died, but the moon  
will provide me with the light.*

*Show me the way, Guardian of the Night.  
Abubakar, GBHS*



## Our Board

### **Libby Gleeson AM Chair**

Libby is author of forty titles for children and young adults. She is formerly Chair of the Australian Society of Authors, Chair of the Literature and History Committee of ArtsNSW, a Director of the Copyright Agency and recently stepped down as a Director of the Public Education Foundation.

### **Prof. Robyn Ewing AM Deputy Chair**

Robyn is Professor of Teacher Education and the Arts, Sydney School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney. A former primary teacher, she is Chair of the Academic Board of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS), an Honorary Associate with Sydney Theatre Company, Principal Fellow of the Australian Literacy Educators Association (ALEA) and Visiting Scholar with Barking Gecko Theatre. She has worked for a decade in partnership with Sydney Theatre Company on *School Drama*, a teacher professional learning program that aims to ensure primary teachers have the expertise and confidence to embed drama with literature to enhance students' English and literacy outcomes. She is a former president of ALEA and the Primary English Teachers Association (PETAA) and vice president of Sydney Story Factory 2011-15.

### **Assoc. Prof. Susanne Gannon Secretary**

Susanne is Associate Professor in the School of Education, WSU. She teaches preservice secondary teachers and directs postgraduate and adult education with current teachers. She has a particular interest in researching the teaching of creative writing in schools. She has been an executive member of the Australian Association of Teachers of English, and has been publication manager and editor of the research journal *English in Australia*.

### **Brett Perry Treasurer (from July)**

Brett has 35 years experience in the banking industry. He joined Commonwealth Bank in 1990. Throughout his career, Brett has worked in various roles, including Institutional Banking, Project Finance, State Manager Business Banking Qld and National Manager Corporate Risk Management.

### **Bruce Handmer Treasurer (to June)**

Bruce is the founder and Managing Director of The Friday Group, a management consulting company which incorporates Friday Search and Friday Communications. Prior to this he was a Partner at Moss & Hooper Pty Ltd, a technology focused management consulting and recruitment firm, an Associate at Spencer Stuart & Associates' Sydney office. He joined Spencer Stuart in 1997 from the international advertising and recruitment firm Austin Knight, where he was Managing Director. He has also founded, built and sold a number of companies in computer, marketing and technical services along with numerous 'change' and interim management roles including GM of an FMCG manufacturer and Executive and HR Advisor to AREVA Solar Inc & P/L.

### **Philip Porter**

Philip has been variously a high school and University teacher, business person (establishing educational centres in Australia, Japan, China, Indonesia and Thailand), fisherman, builders labourer, showman and ESL teacher (to name a few) in various countries around the world. He is currently the Director of Philip Porter Consulting and Advisor to the Dean of Law at Meiji University, Tokyo.

### **Hania Radvan**

Hania has over 30 years' experience as a professional arts worker across performing arts practice, industry and

audience development, venue management, arts policy development, funding implementation and strategy. Hania spent 22 years working in the Northern Territory first as Marketing Manager at the Darwin Entertainment Centre, then for the NT Government, ultimately as Director, Arts NT. In 2013 she took up the position of CEO Penrith Performing & Visual Arts operators of the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest as well as Penrith Conservatorium and Q Theatre.

### **Vivienne Skinner**

Vivienne is principal of the urban strategy company, Metropolis, and for nearly two decades was an adviser and speechwriter to two NSW premiers and the deputy prime minister of Australia.

Vivienne has been a television newsreader and journalist and is director of Beyond Empathy, which uses the arts to improve the lives of severely disadvantaged young Australians. She is a member of The Big Issue Women's Advisory Committee, and SAMAG, the Sydney Arts Management Advisory Committee. Former board appointments include the Centennial Parklands and Moore Park Trust, chair of the Centennial Parklands' Community Consultative Committee, deputy Chair of the Adelaide Film Festival, the South Australian Film Corporation, and the physical theatre company, Legs on the Wall. Vivienne recently completed a masters degree in Urban Policy and Strategy at the University of NSW.

### **Ethan Bell**

#### *Intern*

Ethan Bell is a Ngunnawal man from the Yass Valley NSW. At 15 he moved from country to Campbelltown prior to enlisting in the Australian Defence Force. He works in community services, supporting youth within the Campbelltown area and is studying Creative Writing, History and Politics at Western Sydney University.

## Our Staff



### **Michael Campbell** Executive Director

Michael has worked freelance as an arts consultant and strategist, editor, writer, producer and events manager. He was the Festival Director for the Brisbane Writers Festival (2006-2009), and the literary events program at gleebooks in Sydney for 4 years (2002-2005). He is acting Chair of Currency House, and edited *Keith Bain on Movement* and *Keith Bain: The Principles of Movement* for Currency House and Oberon Books (UK). Michael has also worked across the arts in various other capacities including as an artistic director, director, choreographer, artistic co-ordinator, events manager, librettist, writer, editor, and dancer. He was a principal dancer with West Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet and Oper der Stadt Köln, and has worked for companies including Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare Company and Griffin Theatre Company. He has worked for Opera Australia on works including *Merry Widow*, *Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour: Carmen* and *La Traviata*, *La Forza del Destino* and *Salome*. In 2004 he directed the opera *Madeline Lee*, which he also co-wrote. Recent projects include judging the 2013, 2014, 2016 WA Premier's Book Award, directing *The Cunning Little Vixen* for Pacific Opera, an outdoor performance of *Twelfth Night* and producing, directing and authoring *The Faces of Mercy* both in Sydney and Rome.

### **Michelle Rickerby** Producer

With a background in children's television production including television production manager, children's television character writer and playwright. (Nickelodeon, Sydney and The Children's Channel, London) Michelle was the Executive Producer of ABC Commercial for three years overseeing the development, production and co-production of content, products and services for distribution via ABC Commercial business units. Recently a social media manager, Michelle has worked in London as a writer, producer and film reviewer for Universal TV Studios and has experience as a consulting editor for film scripts for independent film producers.

### **Contract positions**

#### **Peg Thatcher: Bookkeeper**

Sept-mid December

#### **Eda Günaydin – Associate Producer**

### **Hajer Al-awsi** Program Associate

Hajer was born and raised in Western Sydney primarily in the Parramatta region. She writes stories concerned with capturing the complexity of being a second-generation Iraqi Muslim, Arab immigrant. Her writing focuses on female experiences within this identity. The stories encapsulate the psychological effects of tribalism and religiosity often in contexts that challenge practices the main characters have been discouraged, and in many cases forbidden, to participate in. Having moved around Western Sydney throughout her childhood, and attended disadvantaged schools, she is aware of the lack of support for the arts and writing that exists in Western Sydney. She believes that WestWords is making a difference, creating spaces where kids can grow up with opportunities for them to be nurtured and flourish, as people and as artists.

### **James Roy** Blacktown and Katoomba Manager

Since his first novel was released in 1996, James has written a number of critically acclaimed works of fiction and non-fiction for young people, including the CBCA Honour Books *Captain Mack* and *Billy Mack's War*, and six CBCA Notable Books. In 2008, *Town* also won the Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature in the NSW Premier's Literary Awards, as well as the Golden Inky in Australia's only teenage choice awards. *Anonymity Jones* won the 2010 Western Australian Premier's Book Award for young adult literature. His latest book, *One Thousand Hills*, written with Noel Zihabamwe, won the NSW Premier Literary Award and a NSW Premier's History Award. He teaches creative writing in Australia and overseas, and has served on the Literature Board of the Australia Council for the Arts.

### **Mark Treddinick** Wedderburn Manager

Mark is a celebrated Australian poet, essayist and teacher. Winner of the Montreal International Poetry Prize in 2011 and the Cardiff International Poetry Competition in 2012. He is the author of thirteen books, including four volumes of poetry (*Bluwren Cantos*, *Fire Diary*, *The Lyrebird*, *The Road South*); *The Blue Plateau*; *The Little Red Writing Book* and *Writing Well: the Essential Guide*. For twenty years he has taught poetry, grammar, creative nonfiction and business prose in Sydney and around the world.



In 2018, we partnered with 79 organisations, of which four were universities and 28 were schools. These companies, government agencies, trusts and foundations, arts organisations, festivals share in our fundamental belief in the power of the written word to shape lives and communities. We welcome our new supporters and acknowledge the ongoing relationships with those who have been with us over years.

Together we change lives and bring about social cohesion.

On behalf of all those who participated and were touched by our programs - thank you.

*Our funding partners:*



*Our community and arts partners include:*

- Art Gallery of NSW
- Asialink
- Australian Children's Laureate
- Blacktown City Libraries
- Blue Mountains Library
- Blume Illustrated
- Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre
- Campbelltown Arts Centre
- Celestino
- Children's Book Council of Australia
- City of Parramatta Library
- Cumberland Council Libraries
- Dreaming Festival
- Finishing School
- Hawkesbury Library Services
- Information and Cultural Exchange
- Liverpool City Library
- Lost in Books
- Parramatta Artists Studios
- Penguin Random House
- Penrith City Library
- Pinerolo: The Children's Book Cottage
- Sailor Studio
- Story City
- Sweatshop
- Sydney Review of Books
- Sydney Theatre Company
- Sydney Writers' Festival
- The Whitlam Institute
- University of Sydney
- University of Washington
- Varuna: The National Writers House
- Way Out West Festival
- Western Plains Cultural Centre
- WestLit Libraries: Public Libraries Association NSW, Western Zone Public Libraries
- Writing and Society Research Centre, Western Sydney University
- Writing NSW

And our individual donors including Robyn Ewing AM, Libby Gleeson AM, Friday's Child, Blue Illusion, North Shore Poetry Project  
We couldn't do it without you!

**WestWords**

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## PARTNERS

We worked with:  
**79 organisations**

including  
4 universities, one being  
international,  
and  
28 primary and secondary  
schools



**In 2018, we collaborated with 99 Writers, illustrators, editors, spoken word artists, actors and other allied. These extraordinary individuals included:**

- Eddie Abd
- David Adès
- Randa Abdel-Fattah
- Tristan Bancks
- Inez Baraney
- Judith Beveridge
- Aunty Frances Bodkin
- Michelle Cahill
- Elliot York Cameron
- Luke Carman
- Felicity Castagna
- Jocelin Chan
- Wai Ping Chim
- Catherine Cole
- Siobhan Colman
- Matt Cosgrove
- Ursula Dubosarsky
- Jules Faber
- Angela May George
- Roanna Gonsalves
- Morris Gleitzman
- Jason Gray
- Margaret Hamilton AM
- Tim Harris
- Wayne Harris
- James Hart
- Jacqueline Harvey
- Jack Heath
- Chloe Higgins
- Tom Jellet
- Lindsay Knight
- George Ivanoff
- Sadami Konchi
- Cheryl Orsini
- Benjamin Peek
- Oliver Phommavanh
- Tohby Riddle
- Anjali Roberts
- James Roy
- Omar Sakr
- Sara Saleh
- Matt & Bec Stanton
- Gabrielle Tozer
- Todd Turner
- Mark Tredinnick
- Jenny Valentish
- Mitch Vane
- Faye Wilson
- Fiona Wright
- Dias Novita Wuri
- Claire Zorn

*and many more...*

## PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT

*99 professional writers, illustrators, editors and other allied artists facilitated our programs*

92 came from NSW of which 62 were from Western Sydney – that's 61%  
6 were national  
1 was international