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## Membership Report for 2023

On behalf of the organising committee of Ballarat Writers, I would like to again extend my gratitude and appreciation to the membership who continued to support the organisation in various ways throughout the ongoing trials of 2023. Our membership was able to be more active this past year, with semi-regular meetings and other events taking place. These were the Pamela Miller Flash Fiction competition and the Southern Cross Short Story Competition.

The BW membership tiers established in previous years were altered to include free membership for high school and university students studying at a Ballarat campus, and costs to members likewise have not changed. As of 31/12/2023, there were 102 financial members of Ballarat Writers which represented an increase of 18.60% in numbers from 2022, with the breakdown by type as follows:

Membership Type	Annual Dues	Number
Full	\$30	41
Concession	\$20	54
Junior	\$10	1
Student	FREE	4
New Resident	FREE	1
Lifetime	FREE	1
Type Unknown		0

Of these members, one was a life member, 50 were renewing and 51 were brand new. 26 new members were concession members, 19 full members, 1 junior 4,

students and 1 new resident joined in 2023. The total of dues collected in 2023 was \$2070.

The Sender Newsletter list has 642 subscribers as of the writing of this report (5/2/24). Almost all financial members are on this list but obviously there are many more subscribers who are not members. This mailing list is the primary method of contacting our members, as well as providing outreach to the community and potential future members, and it is a valuable resource for Ballarat Writers.

Ballarat Writers is doing its job of supporting writers in the Central Highlands.

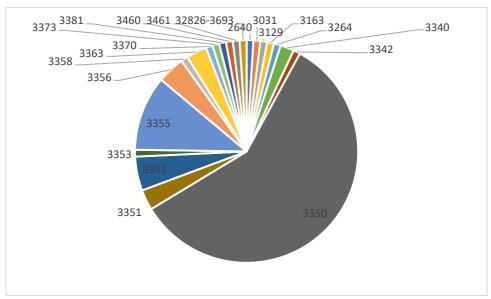


Figure 1BW Members by Postcode

While our interstate and overseas members total two, members are moving overseas and they will hopefully renew their memberships when the time comes.

The committee hopes to see regular monthly gatherings at the North Star continue in 2024 and have booked our regular last Wednesday nights for the year.

In closing, the membership of Ballarat Writers has increased in 2023. Members are enthusiastic and keen to participate in the organisation and its events, providing an excellent base on which to build as we anticipate the impacts of the rising cost of beer.

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Treasurer & Membership, Ballarat Writers 2023.

