



Secretary & Public Officer's Report – Annual General Meeting

In representation of the Annual General Meeting for Ballarat Writers Inc held on Wednesday 12/02/2025 and under Rule 47 (2) of article of association, I was appointed as Secretary & Public Officer to replace Michael Amhaz on July 2nd, 2024. In addition to this appointment, Beverly Foster was also appointed on this date by the committee under the position of Workshop Coordinator.

I express an abundance of appreciation and gratitude to the committee for their appointment of myself in fulfillment of this position and congratulate all members who both participated and assisted within our hosted activities, events and programs throughout 2024.

Words cannot express with the domineering dedication and efforts in sparking mighty willpower in assisting our organization to acknowledge and support local writers and creative writing within Ballarat and the Western Victorian region.

Under thorough administrative coordination and observation throughout 2024, Ballarat Writers Inc attended and participated in:

- Three Festivals & Expos – 'Creative Clunes Booktown Festival 2024', 'Get Connected! Seniors Festival Expo 2024' and 'Springfest 2024'
- Two Competitions – 'Pamella Miller Fiction Prize 2024' and 'Martha Richardson Memorial Poetry Prize 2024'
- Two Workshops – 'Polish to Publish' and 'How to Self-Publish' Workshops
- One Anthology Event – 'Ballarat Writers Presents: Below the Surface'

In comparison with membership statistics for the period between 2023 to 2024, Ballarat Writers Inc experienced a significant 32.67% increase in memberships, receiving 33 new members and reaching a total of 134 members in 2024 as opposed to 101 members in 2023.

Due to an increased focus on raising public awareness and active attendance in community efforts, our organization's reputation has increased within the Ballarat and Western Victorian regions.

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As a result, we strive to continue fulfilling this growth of membership throughout 2025 in the delivery of new exciting experiences for both our members and represented regions. In terms of membership, we wish to remind all that BWI membership renewals are due on or before April 30th and to please remember to renew your membership application prior to that period.

A special mention should include our participation within a community-based research project that was undertaken at the Art Gallery of Ballarat and Eureka Centre in partnership with the Australian National University (ANU) in June 2024.

Our Chairperson was interviewed by Amelia Wallin (Senior Research Officer) and Chris McAuliffe (Emeritus Professor) for the purposes to assist their efforts to study and include community knowledge, within the interpretation and display of art and heritage items at Ballarat museums for their project upon their visit from Canberra.

We extend welcoming appreciation to Laura Wilson (Chairperson), Michael Amhaz (Secretary & Public Officer) and Rhonda Cotsell (Competitions Coordinator) for being friends of Ballarat Writers Inc, recognizing them for their influential and meaningful contributions to ensure the necessary steps taken to the position of where our organization currently stands. Within their respective departures from the committee in 2024, we wish them the best of luck as they traverse further into their individual creative journeys.

In conclusion, we look forward to the newly elected committee ushering into an ambitious new era for our organization in pursuit of innovative and profound opportunities. We encourage them to align with Ballarat's Creative City Strategy towards promoting the next generation of local writers and writing within Ballarat and the Western Victorian Region.

Liam Monaghan

Secretary & Public Officer

Ballarat Writers Inc

10/02/2025

Liam Monaghan