

President's Report: Gippsland Writers Network

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Overview

Financial membership numbers were steady, while the email database continued to grow. Part of the year was affected by COVID which meant it was impossible to host any in person events.

Members

The membership base did not grow by much and the decision was made to investigate new ways of processing paid members to streamline the process both for members and the committee. Without the opportunity to apply for grants, no paid membership was required, nor offered to existing mailing list contacts.

Weekly emails were sent to all members offering a number of writing opportunities and author talks or festivals.

Committee

The committee consisted of:

- President, Vicky Daddo
- Treasurer, Tash Agafanoff
- Secretary/Membership officer, Tyson Pink
- Member, Sally-Anne Watson Kane

Events

There were also several online workshops delivered by GWN committee members:

- Descriptive Writing on 13 October 2019 facilitated by Vicky Daddo and attended by three members.
- Prompt-led Free Writing on 21 June 2020 facilitated by Vicky Daddo and attended by five members.

Digital

The member email continued, despatched each Thursday.

Plans to relaunch the GWN website progressed. GWN upgraded its Wordpress site to include more functionality, including a members-only chat forum.

The Facebook page is active but is not regularly updated due to lack of time and resources.

Memberships

The Gippsland Writers Network was a paid member of Writers Victoria for the 2019-20 year.

Summary

This was a year of consolidation rather than growth and of testing the appetite for online events. COVID restrictions limited the opportunities for face-to-face activities, but paved the way for more digital events and meetings.