

# President's Report: Gippsland Writers Network

**1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021**

## Overview

As with the previous year, the COVID pandemic affected the Network's ability to run in person events, but the membership base remained steady.

A Writers Victoria grant of \$880 enabled the Network to offer two online workshops delivered by Journeys to Words publisher Jen Hutchison.

## Members

The membership base remained steady with approximately 100 contacts on the mailing list, 36 of whom were financial members.

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 several online workshops delivered by GWN committee members for Network members (either paid or non-paid):

- Editing Your Own Poetry on 25 July 2020 facilitated by Sally-Anne Watson Kane, attended by 2 participants.
- Creative Journaling for Writers on 8 November 2020 facilitated by Tash Agafanoff, attended by 9 participants.

The workshops delivered by Jen Hutchison were offered at a discounted rate to paid members (\$20) and full rate to non-paid members (\$40).

- Building Your Characters on 19 September 2020 facilitated by Jen Hutchison, attended by 9 participants.
- Dialogue on 3 October 2020 facilitated by Jen Hutchison, attended by 9 participants

## **Digital Presence**

The member email continued, despatched each Thursday to all Network members. Plans to relaunch the GWN progressed with a view to developing a new logo and upgrading the newsletter to an EDM format.

In order to facilitate online events, GWN purchased a Zoom account.

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

## **Memberships**

The Gippsland Writers Network was a paid member of Writers Victoria for the 2020-21 year.

## **Summary**

This was another year of consolidation rather than growth. The delivery of externally facilitated online events proved successful. Plans for a new-look GWN which should drive more active membership are taking shape for the coming financial year.