



Tropical Writers Inc.

PO Box 7772  
Cairns QLD 4870

## 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

**Tropical Writers Inc.**

**Saturday 28 September 2024, Endeavour Foundation, Hoare St, Cairns**



### **Our Mission Statement**

*“The aim of Tropical Writers is to support and promote the craft of writing. We encourage the creative writing talent of each member and welcome all genres of fiction and non-fiction writing. We gather to inspire each other, to critique each other’s work and to respect the unique voice of each writer. Our goal is to share our passion for writing and nurture the creative muse in each of us.”*



**President's Report**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**28 September 2024**

In 2023-2024 it was business as usual, and we hope our meetings and other activities were enjoyed by all. I know we don't always get it right, but we do try to make the meetings engaging, and hope everyone can take something away with them, even if it's catching up with our writing friends, getting some inspiration and reassurance that we are all in for the long haul, and that, if it gets tough, we are there to support each other.

Apart from our usual activities, we ventured into participating at our local markets, had a presence at the 2024 Cairns Tropical Writers Festival by having a stall as well as hosting a session featuring a panel of our published members. In October, in partnership with Cairns Libraries we hosted a public event *Places and people that inspire our stories*, a panel session featuring our published members and a special guest Janine Evans, Researcher, James Cook University, that touched on the topic of researching for a book. We also produced our first podcasts. We are always looking for input and suggestions and encourage you to email the secretary with any ideas.

At our member meetings, we welcomed special guests Roger Osborne, Associate Professor, James Cook University, and enjoyed his talk on the history of writing in Far North Queensland, and Australian authors Pamela Morrison and Joanna Talberg, who shared with us their writing journeys and talked about their books. We always appreciate our special guests' willingness to give up their time and join us.

I'd like to thank our members for turning up every month. It keeps the group going. We are extremely grateful to those that contribute to our meetings and put their hand up to run an activity or share their writing and reading interests and passion. So here goes to:

- Ken for volunteering to run short workshops and being our Electoral Officer at past AGMs;
- Fay for running our Awesome Authors segment and stepping in as the Electoral Officer at the 2023 AGM;
- Dave for running the fiction break-out group, short workshops, monthly newsletters, and stepping in as the meetings' MC from time to time;
- Jeanette for running many of our off-the-cuff groups, and helping to set up and tidy-up the meeting room space;
- Phillip for running the Literary Devices segment, and looking after us during the afternoon tea time;
- Ali for managing our membership register, chasing renewals, speaking to people interested in the group, and securing partnerships with external organisations;
- Joanne for volunteering to produce our first podcasts;
- Sam for sharing her knowledge on running author market stalls;
- Our monthly writing competition judges for giving up their time to read the submissions; and
- All of you who have contributed to our monthly meetings by participating in our activities and being brave enough to stand up, or sit down, in front of our little monthly crowds.

Special thanks go to the management committee: Ali, Phillip, Jeanette, Jennifer, Dave and Sam. I appreciate and value your ongoing support, your views and willingness to step up and step in where required. You have brought so much to the group.

I'd also like to acknowledge Endeavour Foundation for giving us a roof over our heads for our monthly meetings, and Cairns Books for donating book vouchers for our monthly writing competition.

I hope the rest of this year and 2025 are full of ideas, rewards and successes no matter how small, and that we keep our keyboards, keypads and pens well-oiled and always at the ready.

*Lenka Wagner*

President

28 September 2024

## Podcasts

[www.tropicalwriters.com.au/membership/podcasts-and-fun-stuff](http://www.tropicalwriters.com.au/membership/podcasts-and-fun-stuff)

'In Conversation with Christian White'

'In Conversation with Shankari Chandran'

'In Conversation with Veronica Lando'

'In Conversation with Tony Park'

The graphic features a green background with yellow text. On the left, there are two book covers: 'The Whispering' by Veronica Lando and 'The Drowning Girls' by Veronica Lando. The text on the right reads: 'TWI PRESENTS IN CONVERSATION With VERONICA LANDO A writer, author, mum, on honing the writing skills and finding the time to write Interviewed by Joanne Chua-Robertson'. There is also a 'TWI' logo at the bottom right of the graphic.



**October 2023: Panel Session - Places and People that Inspire Our Stories**



*Left to right: Alison Hooker, Rebecca and Chris Shaw, Frances Dall'Alba, Dave Hodges*

**October 2023 member meeting**



*Robyn Kienzle interviewing Joanna Talbot*



## 2024 Cairns Tropical Writers Festival

### TWI Author and Book Stall



Left to right: Dave Hodges, Philip Dowsett, Sam Woodgarth, Celia Berrell, Frances Dall'Alba

### TWI panel session, MC'd by Roger Osborne





# TROPICAL WRITERS INC PRESENT



At the member meeting on

28 OCTOBER 2023

1.30 PM

## JOANNA TALBERG, WRITER

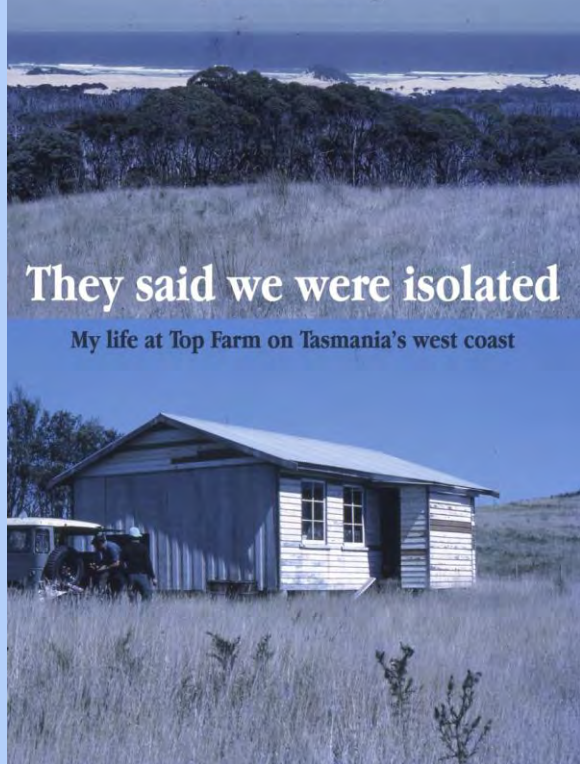
Our special guest for our October meeting is Joanna Talberg, a good friend of a long serving member and past President, Robyn Kienzle.

Joanna will introduce her memoir *They said we were isolated: My life at Top Farm on Tasmania's west coast*, published by Ginnindera Press, and share with us her writing journey.

NOT TO BE MISSED!



Joanna Talberg





## PAMELA MORRISON

After retiring from her career in business management and adult education, Pamela's focus turned to the joy of the written word. Her love of reading began at five years of age when she realised that those squiggly white marks on the blackboard formed words and then the words became stories. She was hooked - and remains so until this day.

During Pamela's early years as a young mother, she focussed on juggling the needs of her family, her studies and her career, gaining degrees in Adult Education and Counselling during her forties and fifties. As a mother of four adult children, a grandmother and great grandmother, the crafting and telling of stories has always seemed very natural to her. The years of working and studying however, directed her written work towards business plans and proposals, funding applications, reports and online assessment development, leaving no time for creative writing.

With more free time on her hands, a forty-four page document written by her mother at 60 years of age was rediscovered and demanded to be crafted into a book. Pamela had read those pages with horror a few years before her mother's death but had boxed them away with other precious memorabilia after she passed. Using those scant, fragile pages, she began writing, calling upon her own memories, those of her siblings and cousins and the results of her research.

This labour of love led to the release of her first published book in February 2023. The book is titled **Sheila "There's no use crying over spilt milk"**. It tells her mother's often harrowing but courageous story of overcoming abandonment, violent child abuse, sexual assault and deep loss. Copies of **Sheila "There's no use crying over spilt milk"** are available directly from Pamela, good bookstores or Amazon.

While writing '**Sheila**', Pamela encountered many unexpected pitfalls, minefields, barriers and emotional blockages. There were many occasions when she felt that she couldn't continue and was therefore forced to learn strategies to help her to break through the difficult times and complete the work.

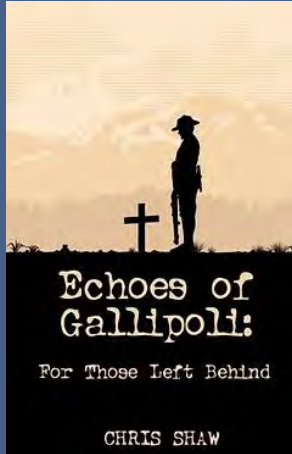
The support of other writers, friends and family was integral to maintaining her well-being during the writing of **Sheila**. She has been an active member of WritersSA for over five years and is grateful for the support and encouragement of The Playford Writer's group which she attends fortnightly. Talking about books and learning from other writers is an indispensable part of her life. She is always delighted when given an opportunity to share her writing experiences with others. When invited to speak to groups, and she is happy to tailor her content to suit the needs of each group or event.



[pmorrisonauthor@gmail.com](mailto:pmorrisonauthor@gmail.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/pamelamorrisonauthor>



# TROPICAL WRITERS INC PRESENT



Free Event

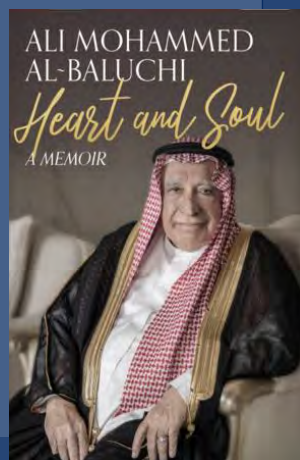
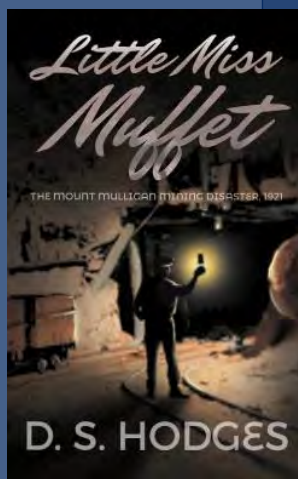
8 OCTOBER 2023

10 – 11.30 AM

## PLACES AND PEOPLE THAT INSPIRE OUR STORIES

City Library Meeting Room

151 Abbott St, Cairns



Join us for a lively discussion about places and people and how they ignite the spark that sends our pens twitching. Hear from our authors and our guest speaker as they share tips and traps about researching for a book, rules to follow and what to avoid.

*Guest panellist:*

Janine Evans, Researcher, JCU, Cairns



**Secretary's Report**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**28 September 2024**

**Memberships:**

We ended the year at 38 memberships, down on last year's 59. This was due to a number of previous members moving away and some others finding the cost of living an issue. We also have a number of people who duck in for specific reasons, but duck out once their needs are met and that's okay.

**Community Partnerships:**

- Lenka did an exemplary job of coordinating our involvement with the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival for the second year, diplomatically handling challenges and encouraging creative ways to continue having a presence and emphasizing our presence as a local writers' group. A good foundation from which to push forward in 2025.
- Our ongoing partnership with the Cairns Libraries is proving fruitful for our own authors as well as giving us direct access to publicity for events that we can advertise to members. They are keen to develop this further and make a point of advertising our group at their events.
- Arts National is another group we have connected with.
- Talks are ongoing with the Museum regarding some workshops involving the use of their research facilities.
- Over this last year, we have established links with a number of JCU lecturers, which have provided some entertaining and informative content and the opportunity to partner as part of the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival.
- Thanks to Joanne Chua-Robertson, we have made some links into the wider social media field by producing two fabulous podcasts.
- Largely through Sam, with some help from Dave Hodges, we have forged stronger ties into the commercial field of markets, and have had stalls at a number of community events including the festival.

**External Competitions:**

We get quite a few notifications of competitions come through the emails, and these are usually posted on the 'Members Only' Facebook page. We would encourage more of you to access this page as we are trying to encourage membership through benefits such as this.

**Thanks:**

Go to Phil Dowsett who kindly covered for me as minute secretary at committee meetings I missed during the months I was undergoing chemotherapy. Phil is stepping down from the committee after many years of faithful service. He's made a very active contribution to the group, and we encourage others to follow his example as you are able. We wish him all the best for the future.

*Ali Hooker*

Secretary

27 September 2024





**Treasurer's Report**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**28 September 2024**

1. Verified accounts as at 30 June 2024 have been prepared. The association's financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June.
2. Tropical Writers Inc. is a level 3 associated incorporation (i.e. both assets and revenue below \$20,000). This means we are not required to arrange for an audit to be prepared or appoint an auditor, however, we still have to lodge the financial report with the Office of Fair Trading. The responsibility for the accuracy of the financial report and its underlying transactions rests with the treasurer and the president of the association.
3. We engaged Cape York Accounting to prepare the 2024 financial statements. The report is prepared based on recorded, and verified, income and expenses as a stand-alone entity.
4. We ended the financial year with a \$405 loss. Our income for the year came primarily through membership fees and members' contributions toward the meeting costs. In addition to the cost of insurance, which is the largest single cost item for us, while some expenditure reduced, our total marketing costs for the year was up. The increased costs reflect the need to replenish some of our marketing materials, and a range of initiatives and activities we undertook, such as having a stall at the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival, podcast production, and a writers' workshop. We have also felt the effects of inflation on the cost of the goods and services. Our financial position remains healthy with sufficient cash reserves and no debt.
5. The new rules also require that we declare any benefits given to the management committee members. I can confirm that no remuneration or any other benefits were given to any of the management committee members.
6. The 2024 Financial Statements report is available for our members to review on TWI website at <https://www.tropicalwriters.com.au/about-us/governance/>.

*Lenka Wagner*

Treasurer

27 September 2024



*Friendly Service from  
Professionals Who Care*

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**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.  
ABN 76 272 615 651**

**AUDIT REVIEW  
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**

**DETAILED BALANCE SHEET**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**MEMBERS' DECLARATION**

**COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

**COMPILATION REPORT**

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**Liability limited by a Scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation**

Suites 7-9 Smithfield Business Centre, 1057 Captain Cook Highway (P O Box 252) Smithfield 4878  
Ph: (07) 4038 1122 Fax: (07) 4038 1082 Email: cyasf@ozemail.com.au Web: www.capeyorkaccounting.com.au  
Leipold Accounting Pty Ltd A.B.N. 21 650 884 745

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Financial Report**  
**For the year ending 30 June 2024**

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**Scope:**

At the request of members we have prepared the attached Financial Statements comprising the Income and Expenditure Statement, and the Detailed Balance Sheet, for the year ended 30 June 2024.

No audit or review was performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The Review Report has been prepared for distribution to the Office of Fair Trading for the purpose of meeting the requirements of Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it is prepared.

**Statement:**

We have sighted the Tropical Writers Inc.'s financial records and the financial records show that this association has bookkeeping processes in place to adequately record the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.



Colleen Harisson BCom DipFP  
Chartered Accountant  
Leipold Accounting Pty Ltd  
Trading as Cape York Accounting Smithfield  
Smithfield Business Centre  
1057 Captain Cook Highway Smithfield

12<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Anthologies	34.70	2,536.64
Book sales - used	17.00	23.00
Donations	22.00	
Fundraising and events	80.43	
Interest received	190.60	78.27
Meeting fees	729.60	640.30
Membership fees	2,576.95	2,206.30
Merchandise	15.00	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,666.28</b>	<b>5,484.51</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accountancy	669.00	633.00
Advertising and promotion	983.32	
Depreciation	199.00	199.00
Donations	30.00	233.00
Filing fees	60.05	58.60
Fundraising and events	151.82	
Insurance	1,217.97	1,199.51
Meeting costs	168.05	258.85
Office supplies		230.85
Postage and courier	200.50	314.20
Printing and other anthology costs		2,802.43
Website and internet	391.20	356.95
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>4,070.91</b>	<b>6,286.39</b>
<b>Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax</b>	<b>(404.63)</b>	<b>(801.88)</b>
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
<b>Net profit (loss) attributable to the association</b>	<b>(404.63)</b>	<b>(801.88)</b>
<b>Total changes in equity of the association</b>	<b>(404.63)</b>	<b>(801.88)</b>

These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Income and Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Opening retained profits	9,426.98	10,228.86
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	<u>(404.63)</u>	<u>(801.88)</u>
<b>Closing retained profits</b>	<b><u>9,022.35</u></b>	<b><u>9,426.98</u></b>

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These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
<b>Cash Assets</b>			
QCB Business Cheque		3,077.13	3,429.67
QCB Debit Card		416.00	275.00
QCB Term Deposit		5,000.00	5,000.00
Petty Cash		100.00	100.00
		<u>8,593.13</u>	<u>8,804.67</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u><b>8,593.13</b></u>	<u><b>8,804.67</b></u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment</b>			
Plant and equipment		1,990.22	1,990.22
Less: accumulated depreciation		(1,561.00)	(1,362.00)
		<u>429.22</u>	<u>628.22</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u><b>429.22</b></u>	<u><b>628.22</b></u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>9,022.35</b></u>	<u><b>9,432.89</b></u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Trade creditors			5.91
			<u>5.91</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			<u><b>5.91</b></u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<u><b>5.91</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>9,022.35</b></u>	<u><b>9,426.98</b></u>

These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
<hr/>			
<b>Members' Funds</b>			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		9,022.35	9,426.98
<b>Total Members' Funds</b>		<u>9,022.35</u>	<u>9,426.98</u>

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These financial statements are unaudited. They must be read in conjunction with the attached Accountant's Compilation Report and Notes which form part of these financial statements.

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Notes to and forming part of the accounts**  
**For the year ending 30 June 2024**

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This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial requirements of the Associations Incorporation's Act. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation's Act. No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis, and are based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following specific accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

**(a) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Revenue related to the provision of services is determined with reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date and where outcome of the contract can be estimated reliably. Stage of completion is determined with reference to the services performed to date as a percentage of total anticipated services to be performed. Where the outcome cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised to the extent that related expenditure is recoverable. All revenue is stated inclusive of GST.

**(b) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

**(c) Property, Plant and equipment.**

Property Plant and Equipment are included at cost, independent of committee's valuation. All assets, excluding freehold land and buildings, are depreciated over their useful lives to the association.

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Members Declaration**  
**For the year ending 30 June 2024**

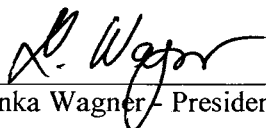
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The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement and Detailed Balance Sheet:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Tropical Writers Inc., as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

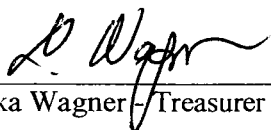
This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Lenka Wagner - President



Alison Hooker - Secretary



Lenka Wagner - Treasurer

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Committees Report**  
**For the year ending 30 June 2024**

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Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the Tropical Writers Inc., for the year ending 30 June 2024.

**Committee Members**

The names of the committee members at the date of this report are:

President – Lenka Wagner  
Secretary – Alison Hooker  
Treasurer – Lenka Wagner

**Principal Activity**

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was creative writing and support activities

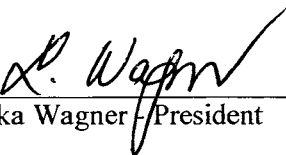
**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

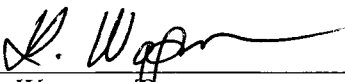
**Operating Result**

The net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities for year ended 30 June 2024 was (\$404.63).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee on:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lenka Wagner - President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alison Hooker - Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lenka Wagner - Treasurer

**TROPICAL WRITERS INC.**  
**ABN 76 272 615 651**  
**Compilation Report**  
**For the year ending 30 June 2024**

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On the basis of information provided by the committee members, we have the special purpose financial report of this entity for the period ended 30 June 2024, as set out in the attached Income and Expenditure Statement and Detailed Balance Sheet and Notes to the Financial Statements.

The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial report has been prepared, is set out in Note 1. The extent to which Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements have or have not been adopted in the preparation of the special purpose financial report is set out in Note 1.

The members are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial report, and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of their association and are appropriate to meet the needs of their members.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, classify, and summarise the financial information, which we have provided into a financial report. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

To the extent permitted by law, we do not accept liability for any loss or damage which any person, other than the business, may suffer arising from any negligence on our part. No person should rely on the special purpose financial report without having an audit conducted.



Colleen Harisson BCom DipFP  
Chartered Accountant  
Leipold Accounting Pty Ltd  
Trading as Cape York Accounting Smithfield  
Smithfield Business Centre  
1057 Captain Cook Highway Smithfield

12<sup>th</sup> August 2024