



Tropical Writers Inc.

PO Box 7772
Cairns QLD 4870

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Tropical Writers Inc.

Saturday 27 September 2025, 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
27 September 2025

The beginning of the financial year saw us kick-start work on the next anthology, as well as continue our activities including our monthly meetings, the writing competition and exercises, and public appearances.

Sam presented a writers' workshop on self-publishing, full of tips and insights, sharing her knowledge and experience on what it takes to turn a rough manuscript into a published book. Ali, supported by our published members Heather, Michelle and Oonagh, ran a well-received session on finding inspiration in our ancestry, aimed specifically at memoir and biography writers. In August, we joined our local authors and artists at the annual Yungaburra Book Fair.

Other highlights included a visit from an author Beverley Brett, who talked about her writing journey and her middle grade book *The Secret of Arnion*, and Dr Bianca Vidonja Balanzategui, B.Ed., B.A (Hons), M.A. (Museum Curatorship), Dip.Foreign Languages (Italian), PhD. (History), Adjunct Lecturer in the College of Arts, Society and Education, James Cook University, who delivered a presentation on John Naish's contribution to the literature and history of the cane fields. In November, we were joined by Gillian Long, an Australian author, and a local, who has written and published a number of books. We always appreciate our special guests' willingness to spend some of their time with us.

I'd like to thank everyone who has assisted in keeping our organisation functioning and all contributors to our monthly meetings. I'm extremely grateful to have had Dave, Ali, Jeanette, Sam, Belu, and Jonathan who joined half-way through the year, on the management committee. I appreciate and value their ongoing support, their views and willingness to step up and step in where required, and their skills and knowledge they bring to the table. You have brought so much to the group. You have my greatest thanks.

A special thanks goes to our outgoing secretary, Ali. Her support over the past years is much appreciated. Her personal journey has been challenging over the last two years, but I hope we will see Ali at our regular member meetings. Sam will not continue as a committee member either as she has agreed to take over the helm of the Douglas Shire Book Festival, which will no doubt keep her very busy! I sincerely hope Sam will continue to come to our meetings as she has so much to offer and to share with us.

I'd like to thank you, our members, who have contributed along the way and most importantly turned up to meetings. Thank you for keeping our group vibrant and satisfying, and for bringing new ideas and suggestions to entertain and impart knowledge with the others. Please keep them coming!

And lastly, I'd like to acknowledge Stephen Torre, our Patron and our monthly writing competition judge, Endeavour Foundation for giving us a roof over our heads for our monthly meetings, and Cairns Books for donating book vouchers for the winners of our monthly writing competition.

As we look forward to launching our 2025 anthology in November, I hope the rest of this year and 2026 are inspiring, successful and rewarding for everyone.

Lenka Wagner

President

27 September 2025

Writers' Workshop: Independent Publishing, March 2025



Left to right: Lenka Wagner, Sam Woodgarth, Raechel Hudson, Jonathan Cornelius

Discussion Session: Finding Inspiration in Our Ancestry, May 2025



Left to right: Heather Farmer, Oonagh Prettejohn, Mila Douglas, Ali Hooker



Yungaburra Book Fair: August 2024



Left to right: Dave Hodges and wife Angela, Lenka Wagner

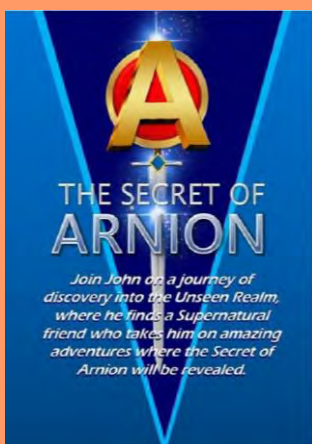


Left to right: Mila Douglas, Lenka Wagner, Sam Woodgarth



Left to right: Megan Formanek, Mila Douglas, Lenka Wagner, Sam Woodgarth





TROPICAL WRITERS INC PRESENT



At the member meeting on

26 APRIL 2025

1.30 PM

BEVERLEY BRETT

Local author

Our special guest for our April meeting is Beverley Brett, a local author and private literacy tutor, who will introduce her new middle grade children's book, and chat with us about her writing journey and other creative endeavours.

NOT TO BE MISSED!

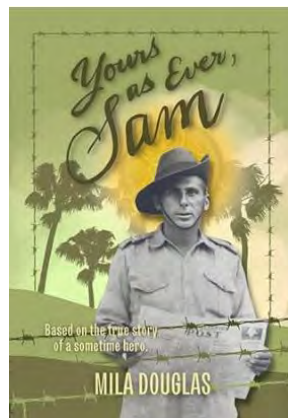
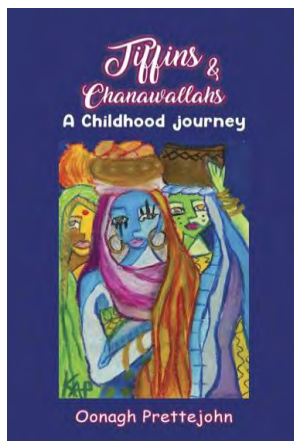
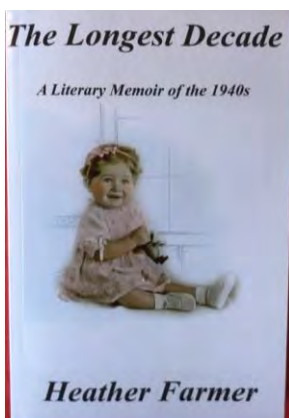
17 MAY 2025

FINDING INSPIRATION IN OUR ANCESTRY

10.00 – 11.30am Meeting Room
City Library, Abbott Street, Cairns

More and more people are delving into their family history and discovering a veritable treasure trove of real-life stories. From ship-wrecked sea captains eaten by cannibals to penal convictions; life in servitude below stairs to foreign postings with a twist; secret elopements or outback adventures - there are many surprises in store for the determined detective. But how does one develop and adapt the material to make it interesting to a reader? Where does fact become fiction?

The session, presented by **Tropical Writers Inc**, will explore the experiences and research methodologies of local writers and published authors who have used family history in their books, aiming to enthuse its audience to take a deeper look at their own past in order to discover personal and distinctive sources of inspiration.



Featuring
authors:

~~~~~

MC: Alison Hooker

*and*

Heather Farmer

Oonagh Prettejohn

Mila Douglas

~~~~~



FREE EVENT
NO BOOKINGS
REQUIRED



Secretary's Report
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
27 September 2025

A discerning observer might find considerable inspiration for a story in the ongoing development of the TW Inc! We certainly have our fair share of colourful characters, heroes and heroines, dreams, fantasies and challenges!

This year, however, it has been a struggle to maintain paid membership levels, particularly renewals. We do have a consistent number of enquiries about the group, most often through the website, and we are also regularly contacted for information about the Writers' Festival, information that we actually have no access to.

Attracting active committee members is an ongoing issue for us, although it is not an onerous task, requiring merely one meeting per month and a bit of creative thinking. The brunt of the group's admin is carried by Lenka, with active involvement by the others in the monthly newsletter, monthly program, correspondence and special events. Like any group, stagnation is a risk, and so it is essential to attract some fresh input and ownership from new faces. Please consider this opportunity.

I would personally like to thank and commend President Lenka for her exemplary level of commitment and patience – she is an absolute gem, and our group would flounder without her measured attention to detail and ability to keep projects such as the Anthology and workshop program moving forward.

The opportunity to access our TWI insurance for public events has proved very useful for some in marketing their writing and businesses, and has also been a helpful promotional tool for attracting enquiries about our group. Our public workshops have served to grow our footprint in the wider writing community of Cairns, and hopefully will continue to do so. Ideas regarding how to do this more effectively and volunteers to champion our cause are always welcome.

Writing is a solitary pursuit, and writers are generally precious about their creations. However, TW Inc provides an important forum for the sharing of knowledge and experience. The Anthology continues to be a significant platform for both published and aspiring writers being published for the first time.

To survive and thrive, this community needs to continue as a space where confidence is built, creativity and experimentation fostered, and diversity embraced – an ongoing challenge for the 2026 committee.

Alison Hooker

Secretary

27 September 2025



Treasurer's Report
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
27 September 2025

1. Verified accounts as at 30 June 2025 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 2025 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 \$406 loss. Our income for the year came primarily through membership fees and members' contributions toward the meeting costs, which remained on a similar level as the last financial year. In addition to the cost of insurance, which is the largest single cost item for us, the second largest cost is accounting: maintaining our books and preparing our annual financial statements. We have also made a \$200 donation to Endeavour as our contribution for the use of their spaces. The effects of inflation on the cost of the goods and services continue to affect our expenses as well. Overall, however, 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 2025 Financial Statements report is available for our members to review on TWI website at <https://www.tropicalwriters.com.au/about-us/governance/>.

Lenka Wagner

President

27 September 2025

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

**AUDIT REVIEW
& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

DETAILED BALANCE SHEET

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MEMBERS' DECLARATION

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

COMPILATION REPORT

TROPICAL WRITERS INC.
ABN 76 272 615 651
Financial Report
For the year ending 30 June 2025

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 2025.

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

18th August 2025

TROPICAL WRITERS INC.
ABN 76 272 615 651
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Income		
Anthologies	64.20	34.70
Book sales - used	3.50	17.00
Commissions	8.55	
Donations		22.00
Fundraising and events	11.00	80.43
Interest received	200.00	190.60
Meeting fees	687.90	729.60
Membership fees	2,515.74	2,576.95
Merchandise		15.00
Total income	3,490.89	3,666.28
Expenses		
Accountancy	1,288.00	669.00
Advertising and promotion	30.00	983.32
Depreciation	199.00	199.00
Donations	230.00	30.00
Filing fees	62.10	60.05
Fundraising and events		151.82
Insurance	1,217.97	1,217.97
Meeting costs	130.18	168.05
Postage and courier	190.00	200.50
Website and internet	549.70	391.20
Total expenses	3,896.95	4,070.91
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(406.06)	(404.63)
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(406.06)	(404.63)
Total changes in equity of the association	(406.06)	(404.63)

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 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Opening retained profits	9,022.35	9,426.98
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(406.06)	(404.63)
Closing retained profits	8,616.29	9,022.35

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 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash Assets			
QCB Business Cheque		2,987.12	3,077.13
QCB Debit Card		298.95	416.00
QCB Term Deposit		5,000.00	5,000.00
Petty Cash		100.00	100.00
		8,386.07	8,593.13
Total Current Assets		8,386.07	8,593.13
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment			
Plant and equipment		1,990.22	1,990.22
Less: accumulated depreciation		(1,760.00)	(1,561.00)
		230.22	429.22
Total Non-Current Assets		230.22	429.22
Total Assets		8,616.29	9,022.35
Net Assets		8,616.29	9,022.35
Members' Funds			
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		8,616.29	9,022.35
Total Members' Funds		8,616.29	9,022.35

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 2025

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.

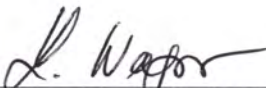
TROPICAL WRITERS INC.
ABN 76 272 615 651
Members Declaration
For the year ending 30 June 2025

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.

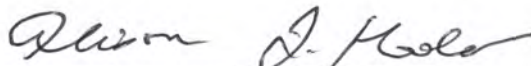
In the opinion of the Committee the Income and Expenditure Statement and Detailed Balance Sheet:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Tropical Writers Inc., as at 30 June 2025 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.

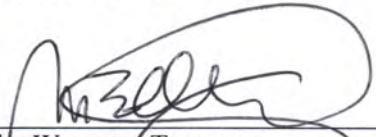
This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



Lenka Wagner, President



Alison Hooker - Secretary



~~Lenka Wagner - Treasurer~~

MARIA GIMENEZ

TROPICAL WRITERS INC.
ABN 76 272 615 651
Committees Report
For the year ending 30 June 2025

Your committee members submit the financial accounts of the Tropical Writers Inc., for the year ending 30 June 2025.

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

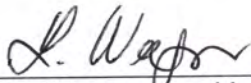
Significant Changes

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

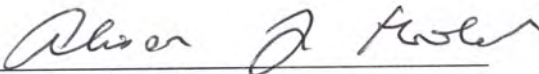
Operating Result

The net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities for year ended 30 June 2025 was (\$406.06).

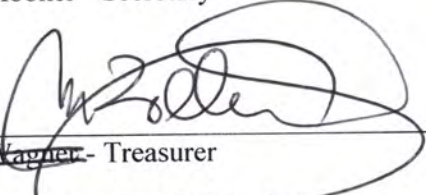
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee on:



Lenka Wagner - President



Alison Hooker - Secretary



~~Lenka Wagner - Treasurer~~
GIMENEZ, MARIA B.

TROPICAL WRITERS INC.
ABN 76 272 615 651
Compilation Report
For the year ending 30 June 2025

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 2025, 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

18th August 2025