



The Sorrento Writers Festival takes place on the land of the Bunurong people of the great Kulin nation. For thousands of generations, these sacred lands and waterways have been preserved and protected by the Bunurong people. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and we acknowledge that the land on which we meet, live and story-tell is a place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal.



# Our Mission

## OUR PURPOSE

To bring writers and readers together

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Words matter

## OUR GOAL

To provide a safe and mutually-respectful place in which to have meaningful conversations, exchange ideas and spark creativity

## OUR MISSION

Each year, on the final weekend in April, we will stage a world-class festival program in a small beach-side town.



During the year, we will deliver a calendar of events that connects people across the Mornington Peninsula, Melbourne and regional Victoria with the Sorrento Writers Festival.

We will bring writers and readers together via books, reading, ideas, information, writing and education.

The Festival will work with its local community to ensure the four-day event has a positive impact on local schools, local economy and local business.

We want everyone in our region to be involved and feel included.

We want more children to discover the joy of storytelling and the power of reading and writing, books and education. We want to improve literacy and change lives.

Festival surpluses will support the Sorrento Writers Festival Literacy Fund.

We want older folk to come to the Festival, join our year-round events and stay connected with one another through the sharing and discussion of ideas.

Our Festival Committee is dedicated to fiscal responsibility, transparency and compliance at all times.

# President's Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present the Sorrento Writers Festival 2025 Annual Report. This important document of record provides a financial overview of the Festival's financial year and registers its 2024-5 contribution to Australia's cultural landscape.

From April 24-25, 2025, we staged our third festival. It was ambitious, it was bold and it was big. This year's Sorrento Writers Festival staged 168 events and showcased 220 writers, journalists, academics, activists, community leaders, former politicians and bureaucrats, children's literature specialists, musicians, filmmakers, poets, podcasters and a raft of other respected creative minds. The Festival sold 22,742 tickets while also providing free events for children and adults. It was a critical and cultural success, and has now firmly established itself as part of the national arts calendar.

I am also pleased that in its third year, the Festival has been able to develop a year-round program of events designed to bring writers and readers together. Curated and managed by Festival Director and CEO Corrie Perkin, Sorrento On Tour is up and running and bringing our Festival magic to wider audiences across Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula.

Also, in June we launched the Sorrento Writers Festival Literacy Fund – an offshoot of our Festival with its own independent committee. The purpose of the Fund is to distribute small grants to Mornington Peninsula literacy projects, particularly those which assist primary and secondary school students.

The Fund is fuelled by our annual Festival surplus. This is why, each year, our organisation is so focused on profitability; the more financially successful our April event, the more money our Fund can distribute to exciting literacy projects in our region.

Festival audiences support our mission with their ticket purchases. Donors and sponsors know their patronage helps the Festival deliver meaningful outcomes for the local Mornington Peninsula community and its children. Local schools, meanwhile, are delighted to be the beneficiaries of new books, free Festival tickets, author school visits, literacy teacher enhancement programs – and so much more still on our To Do list.

The Sorrento Writers Festival Literacy Fund is also fortunate to have among its supporters Rosemary Geer and David Geer. Rosemary and David's financial generosity toward our literacy project, – as well as the annual Festival event – is immense and it is greatly appreciated.

Our audiences support our mission with their ticket purchases. We thank everyone who came along and showed their support in such a meaningful and positive way.

The Sorrento Writers Festival is privileged to have the support of many generous and far-sighted family foundations, private donors, government entities and corporate partners. Please turn to page 19 and 20 and take time to read this honor roll of Festival Friends. Without their benefaction, quite simply there would be no Sorrento Writers Festival. We thank them for their friendship and their financial contributions.

I would like to especially acknowledge the generosity of Jane Hansen AO and Paul Little AO, whose support for their local writers festival via the Hansen Little Foundation recognises the vital roles education, books, writing and humanities play in our society.

On behalf of our community, I also thank the Mornington Shire Council and the Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism Board for local and state government financial investment in our important cultural and community organisation.

In my role as President of Sorrento Writers Festival, I am most fortunate to have the support, companionship and wisdom of an exceptional committee. My boardroom table colleagues share a love of the Mornington Peninsula and its community. They have remarkable and diverse skillsets and they work hard for the Festival cause. I thank Narelle Cormack, Rose Donohoe, Nicholas Martin, Corrie Perkin and Mandy Rethus for their friendship and their great stewardship of our organisation.

The Sorrento Writers Festival was conceived, devised, and is lead, by our Founder, Director and CEO Corrie Perkin. Corrie is simply a force of nature. It is astounding what she and her small team achieved this year, and I thank our staff – and, of course, our remarkable and enthusiastic volunteer army – for all they do to execute an excellent annual event.

I also thank sincerely the Sorrento community, which deserves all our applause. This is everyone's festival, and we hope you share our pride for all that's been achieved in just three years.

The 2025 Sorrento Writers Festival Annual report presents the breadth of our work as a not-for-profit community organisation, and confirms our commitment to fiscal responsibility, good governance and sound management. We look forward to next year with optimism and excitement.



Peter Inge OAM  
President  
Sorrento Writers Festival

# Director's Report

In 2025, Sorrento Writers Festival delivered a remarkable four-day event to its local Mornington Peninsula community, its audiences, its writer and speaker friends, and its donors and sponsors.

Over four days we discussed Shakespeare, *The Great Gatsby*, fantasy novels and war stories. We heard from Miles Franklin winners, Stella Prize nominees, a plethora of Walkley Award-winning journalists, and treasured children's authors and illustrators. Three actors performed a work-in-progress tribute to Germaine Greer, while 150 gathered for breakfast to celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday.

Our program took over the town. And the town responded with its usual warm welcome, (mostly) fine weather and outstanding natural beauty on show for all to enjoy.

From April 24-27, our hard-working Committee, staff, contractors and volunteers staged 168 events plus our annual schools and family events. More than 6000 attendees purchased 22,000+ tickets – an average of three to four sessions per person. This is a particularly pleasing result; it confirms our capacity to create a compelling program that excites our attendees, while offering both writers and readers meaningful opportunities to connect.

This high visitation rate also says a lot about the beautiful place in which we live. The southern tip of the Mornington Peninsula is a magnificent piece of land dominated by Bass Strait to the south/south-west, and Port Phillip Bay to the north and east. Its natural beauty is breathtaking, while the charm of the Sorrento Village remains intact and tangible. All post-Festival survey responders rated highly the sense of welcome and inclusion they experience during our annual event. They spend money in the region, and they all want to come back in 2026.

Sorrento Writers Festival is the sum total of the community it serves. On behalf of our organisation, I share President Peter Inge's grateful thanks to all our residents, traders and those community organisations who, each year, get behind our big weekend.

I would especially like to acknowledge the members of the Sorrento-Portsea RSL, the Sorrento Bowls Club, the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Sorrento Museum, the Sorrento Masonic Centre, and the council-run Sorrento Community Centre, who made available their wonderful spaces for our 2025 events and who offered visitors a warm welcome.

The Festival also thanks The Continental Sorrento for its capacity to host so many of our sessions and gatherings and we congratulate its staff on the great service provided to our patrons.

Sorrento Writers Festival is also blessed to be part of a community that values volunteerism. More than 190 volunteers executed a raft of roles – from ushering and ticketing and running the box office, to setting up venues, providing directions, driving speakers to and from venues, setting up and dismantling seats, constructing and then de-constructing the pop-up bookstore and many more jobs – with energy, professionalism and a friendly smile.

On Wednesday, April 23, the 2025 program unofficially kicked off with four panel discussions at the Sorrento-Portsea RSL. More than 600 people – mostly local Mornington Peninsula folk – listened to publishing luminaries such as Peter FitzSimons, Chris Hammer, Ben Shewry, Annie Smithers and Alison Lester, among others, discuss their craft.

The idea of a "Locals Pre-Festival Day" proved enormously popular and will be repeated in 2026.

→



On Thursday, April 24, Festival 2025 officially started with 46 events in our main venues, and more than 10 author and illustrator events (including a free family afternoon) at the local Sorrento and St Joseph's primary schools. We were delighted for the first time to host a secondary schools event titled 'Shakespeare Unpacked' and witness 70 students immersing themselves in the work of The Bard via actors and musicians.

The 2025 Barry Jones Oration was delivered by Julia Gillard AC, lawyer, advocate, author and Australia's 27th prime minister. More than 220 people gathered into Halcyon Hall (and a further 60+ downstairs where the event was live-streamed) at The Continental Hotel to hear an outstanding speech by our former PM about the importance of books in our lives.

Barry Jones and his wife Rachel Faggetter sat in the front row, and Barry afterwards thanked Julia with an uplifting and heartfelt speech. We remain indebted to Barry for all he does on our Festival's behalf, the wisdom he shares, and the many great Australians he encourages to visit Sorrento Writers Festival.

Thursday night also saw the presentation of the third annual Sorrento Creative Writing Prize. The winner was Peter Martin and Julia Gillard presented the award. This \$5000 award is given each year to an unpublished writer to encourage their pursuit of their literary dream. We are grateful to Dr Helen Sykes of Future Leaders for this generous prize, and we thank Helen and her judging panel for their great work.

Friday April 25 – Anzac Day and, according to our tradition, the Festival program did not officially begin until 1pm. Like last year, dozens of festival-goers joined the Dawn Service on the Sorrento foreshore and later watched the Anzac Day March down Sorrento's main street.

Next year, Anzac Day will fall on the Saturday of our Festival. Once again, we will respectfully acknowledge this significant day of remembrance and urge visitors to take part in local RSL community services.

Other 2025 Festival highlights included:

- One-on-one "in conversations" with award-winning writers and commentators including Helen Garner, Geraldine Brooks, Robbie Arnott, Stan Grant, David Marr, Patrick McCaughey, Michelle de Kretser, Robert Dessaix, Anne Summers, Peter FitzSimons, Kate Grenville and Gina Chick
- Showcasing new Australian fiction and non-fiction writers including Jumaana Abdu, Madeleine Cleary, Theodore Ell, Gail Holmes, Luke Horton, Finegan Kruckemeyer, Tom McIlroy, Raeden Richardson and Samah Sabawi
- Sessions dedicated to First Nations culture and storytelling. Participating writers included Inala Cooper, Stan Grant, Anita Heiss, Marcia Langton, Thomas Mayo, Darren Rix, Nardi Simpson and Tasma Walton
- examining the political plays of William Shakespeare
- an outstanding four events dedicated to the visual arts as part of our annual Thursday Art Stream program
- our ongoing commitment to highlighting Australia's fine journalism traditions. Journalists who took part in our 2025 program included Paul Kelly, Kerry O'Brien, Julia Baird, Nick Bryant, Adele Ferguson, Barrie Cassidy, Alan Kohler, John Lyons, Virginia Trioli, John Silvester and Norman Swan
- our "Election 2025" panel sessions (the Federal Election was held one week after the Festival)
- former Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg's interview with journalist Cameron Stewart about anti-semitism in Australia
- celebrating The Great Gatsby on the 100th anniversary of its publication
- a discussion about the ongoing impact of Jane Austen's fiction in the 250th year of her birth
- a session on melanoma research and other cancer breakthroughs, with Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer as one of our panel members
- starting each morning with 'The Morning Feed' – a series of free, informal discussions about the day's news stories hosted by Tom Wright
- Kim Williams, Chair of the ABC, in conversation with Kerry O'Brien
- our annual free series of panel discussions titled "Writers On Writing"
- a reading of The Greer Effect, a work-in-progress play about Australian feminist icon Germaine Greer by Melbourne writer Vanessa O'Neill
- 'Stop Hurting Women: Enough is Enough' – a Sunday event moderated by journalist Stephen Lunn and featuring activist Tarang Chawla, academic and author Kate FitzGibbon, award-winning crime reporter John Silvester, and feminist, author and editor Anne Summers
- the annual Words & Music concert which celebrated 50 years since ABC's 'Countdown' first went to air – a turning point in Australian music history
- 'Authoritarianism and Why It's On The Rise Again', our final Sunday event hosted by Brendan Donohoe and featuring Nick Bryant, Dennis Glover, Barry Jones and Julianne Schultz

Our 2025 program grew in size because audiences wanted more. In 2023 – our inaugural year – 15 events were sell-outs. In 2024 there were 88. This year we notched up more than 100 sell-out or almost sold-out sessions. Our goal is always to provide festival-goers with program access, opportunities and diversity of opinions. With 2025 ticket sales of nearly 23,000, it confirms we are on the right track.

Writers festivals are wonderful places to explore books. Once again, Avenue Bookstore set up its pop-up bookshop at The Continental Hotel plus satellite "shops" around our venues and sold 4790 books (compared with 2400 in 2024) – a confirmation of attendees' deep engagement with our program.

Aside from the four-day annual festival, our organisation continues to expand its year-round activity so Australian publishers, writers and their readers have more opportunities to meet, discuss, engage, learn, promote, sell and buy books. Sorrento On Tour, which hosts events throughout the year, includes in its 2024-2025 highlights:

- a two-day writing workshop with Hannie Rayson and Michael Cathcart
- author talks at South Yarra Library featuring Annie Smithers, Virginia Trioli, Chris Hammer and Jacinta Parsons
- the Melbourne launch of Jock Serong's new book Cherrywood, held at the Wheeler Centre
- a pre-US 2024 presidential election dinner (and breakfast when the dinner quickly sold out) at Sorrento with historian and author Don Watson
- Festival launch drinks with media proprietor and author Eric Beecher as guest speaker
- June trivia night fundraiser with Brian Nankervis as MC

Sorrento Writers Festival has also started discussions with Mornington Peninsula primary and secondary schools about the possibility of bringing authors to schools for writing workshops, author talks and book discussions. We look forward to the first of these student-focused events taking place in 2026.





In July 2025, the Sorrento Writers Festival launched its new Literacy Fund with a \$110,000 initial donation from 2024 and 2025 festival surpluses, plus a further \$50,000 from philanthropist Rosemary Geer. The Literacy Fund has its own independent committee, chaired by Mandy Rethus and which includes Rosemary, secondary school teacher Tom Gilmour and myself. This committee will oversee applications relating to children's literacy projects on the Mornington Peninsula and then make assessments regarding funding allocations.

We are delighted that after just three years, the Sorrento Writers Festival via this fund is now able to give back to its community in meaningful and life-changing ways. This was always our Committee's goal: to build a not-for-profit charity of purpose, integrity, focus and empathy, and one which provides a service to its local community.

From the beginning, we decided our focus would be the children of the Mornington Peninsula. It is enormously pleasing that after just three years – and thanks to the generosity and support of our audiences, donors, sponsors and volunteers – we have been able to establish a fund that will invest in kindergartens, schools, libraries, volunteer reading groups and other local literacy projects in our region.

There are many individuals and organisations who help us achieve these goals, and I acknowledge their immense contribution later in this report. Please know, everyone who is part of this extraordinary Sorrento Writers Festival community has played a part in the growth and sustainability of our organisation.

These are curious and challenging times for arts institutions. Their Boards are constantly juggling creative projects and artists' freedom of expression, economic imperatives, audiences' requirements, compliance and governance, and community responsibilities.

I would especially like to acknowledge the Sorrento Writers Festival Committee – President Peter Inge OAM, Treasurer Narelle Cormack, Rose Donohoe, Nicholas Martin and Mandy Rethus – which oversees all of these issues (and many more) as we build and secure our organisation.

Without our Committee members' input, their skills, wisdom and guidance, there would be no festival. I thank each of them – and particularly Peter – for their great leadership and immense personal contribution to our cause.

I also thank the Festival's small but enthusiastic and hard-working team which helped bring last April event to life: Isabel Pinkster (operations), Olivia Fleetwood (program and marketing), Fiona Poletti (partnerships and stakeholders), Esme Harrington (customer service), Coco Carter (four-day co-ordinator), Mark de Raad and the team at I-Nex (data, IT and website), Melinda Williams (volunteers), Leng Na (finance), Hutton House (digital marketing and PR), Jasmin Tulk, Sonnet Studios and Kate Slattery (design), Janelle Ward (editor), Richard Janko (legal advice), all our volunteers and venue co-ordinators, and all members of our Program, Operations, Finance, Fundraising, and Marketing sub-committees.

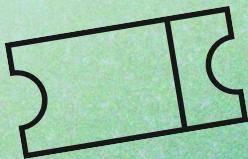
And to our festival-goers, you are the wind beneath our wings. Your excitement about the writers you meet, the interviews, book chats, ideas, the provocations, and the performances you see and hear, the joy you experience as your children meet their author heroes, the books you buy and the conversations you share energise us and make us determined to do better.

We look forward to 2026 and hope to see you in Sorrento.

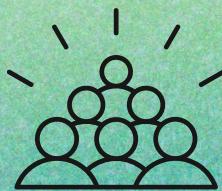
Corrie Perkin,  
Founder, CEO and Director,  
Sorrento Writers Festival



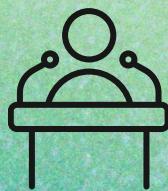
# 2025 Achievements



**22,742**  
tickets sold



**6,000+**  
attendees



**220**  
speakers

**168**  
events

**98**  
sold out events

**16**  
free events

**192**  
volunteers

**400+**  
school children  
attendend

**4,790**  
books sold

## TOP 10 SESSIONS

Where To, America? (Or, How Gaga is MAGA?)

In Conversation: Helen Garner

Shining Light In Dark Corners: Is investigative journalism an endangered species?

The Whitlam Legacy, 1975: Why Australia was never the same again

If Rupert Dies, What Next? The Future of News Ltd and the great dynasty crisis

In Conversation: Geraldine Brooks

In Conversation: David Marr

In Conversation: John Lyons

In Conversation: Gina Chick

1975: The Dismissal: The moment Australian politics changed forever

It's About The Optics, Stupid: Unpacking the 2025 Election

**20 PIECES**  
key national coverage

**12 MILLION**  
audience reach

# Financial Statements

Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

Prepared by Kearney Group

# Detailed Income Statement

## Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Other Income</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
Revenue - Advertisements	6,100	8,900
Revenue - Donations	311,014	260,365
Revenue - Early Bird Pass (Membership)	178,632	129,929
Revenue - Foundation Grants	91,500	85,000
Revenue - Government Grants	50,000	5,000
Revenue - Merchandise Sales	-	452
Revenue - Special Events	-	24,403
Revenue - Sponsorships	110,794	153,794
Revenue - SWF On Tour Events	77,427	-
Revenue - Tickets	390,277	283,588
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>1,215,744</b>	<b>951,431</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>1,215,744</b>	<b>951,431</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,215,744</b>	<b>951,431</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>General</b>		
Accounting Fees	2,950	10,200
Advertising	19,052	14,955
Amortisation	250	250
Audit Fees	2,000	4,000
Bank Charges	283	110
Bookkeeping Fees	-	1,000
Computer Software, License Fees and Support	51,165	62,130
Contracting - Administration Staff	35,880	17,883
Contractors (GST)	-	13,290
Contractors (no GST)	64,406	41,089
Depreciation	2,000	908
eNews and Social Media	5,376	6,576
Equipment Hire (Audio, Video,etc)	73,736	51,255
Fees - Speakers & Performers	155,400	129,769
Fees - Welcome to the Country	700	650
Gifts	127	313
Graphic Design	11,205	9,147
Ground Travel Costs - Speakers and Performers	21,514	8,683
Hospitality - Speakers, Mentors	11,684	808
Insurance	2,609	6,519
Media Management	14,000	21,638
Memberships	250	300
Merchandise	-	6,180

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	2025	2024
Merchant Fees	-	86
Photography	11,375	10,900
Postage and Couriers	-	47
Printed Programs	17,274	10,555
Printing and Stationary	15	1,033
Processing Fees - Trybooking	73	-
Program Design and Workshop	-	250
Research and Development Expenses	1,139	-
Speaker Airfares	27,490	-
Speakers' Accommodation	84,150	85,300
Staff Meals and Incidentals	-	440
Staff Travel	1,411	9
Staff Travel Allowance	13,615	-
Stripe Fees	13,603	9,468
Subscriptions	978	644
Sundry Expenses	137	-
Superannuation Contribution Expenses	17,212	11,776
SWF on Tour Events Expenses	64,367	-
Telephone - Landline and Mobile	-	32
Venue Hire	35,654	69,854
Wages - Staff	149,671	107,050
Website - Development and Design	-	851
Website - Hosting and Services	-	580
WorkCover	1,976	793
<b>Total General</b>	<b>914,728</b>	<b>717,319</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>914,728</b>	<b>717,319</b>
<b>Profit / Loss Before Distribution</b>	<b>301,016</b>	<b>234,112</b>
<b>Undistributed Income</b>	<b>301,016</b>	<b>234,112</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

# Balance Sheet

## Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated As at 30 June 2025

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1	619,888	334,816
Receivables	2	450	811
Goods & Services Tax		15,744	14,736
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>636,082</b>	<b>350,363</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Intangibles	3	437	687
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>437</b>	<b>687</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>636,519</b>	<b>351,050</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	4	11,687	27,233
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>11,687</b>	<b>27,233</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>11,687</b>	<b>27,233</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>624,833</b>	<b>323,817</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Undistributed Income	5	624,833	323,817
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>624,833</b>	<b>323,817</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

**Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

	2025	2024
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Balance	323,817	89,704
<b>Increases</b>		
Profit for the Period	301,016	234,112
Total Increases	<b>301,016</b>	<b>234,112</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>624,833</b>	<b>323,817</b>

## Statement of Cash Flows

### Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Cash receipts from other operating activities	1,297,067	1,012,632
Cash payments from other operating activities	(976,266)	(746,939)
GST	(32,599)	(25,505)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>288,202</b>	<b>240,189</b>
<b>Investing Activities</b>		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(2,000)	(908)
Other cash items from investing activities	469	(369)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>(1,531)</b>	<b>(1,277)</b>
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Other cash items from financing activities	(1,598)	9,327
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>(1,598)</b>	<b>9,327</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>285,073</b>	<b>248,239</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	334,816	86,577
Net change in cash for period	285,073	248,239
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b>619,888</b>	<b>334,816</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

The financial statements cover Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated (the Association) as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated is an Incorporated Association.

### **1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies**

The Members have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Association is a non-reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on general purpose financial statements. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012. The Association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the Members have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous year unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical cost unless otherwise stated in the notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### **Accounting Policies**

##### **(a) Income Tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

##### **(b) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Statement of Financial Position are shown inclusive of GST, where applicable.

##### **(c) Comparative Figures**

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

##### **(d) Revenue**

When the entity receives grants, donations or bequests, it assesses whether there is an enforceable contract which has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15. Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Entity:

- recognises the asset in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (AASB 9 etc.)
- recognises related amounts such as revenue, leases, provisions, contracts etc.
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Association recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Revenue from donations is measured at the fair value of the consideration received and is recognised upon the receipt of cash or of control of an asset other than cash. Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

##### **(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

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.

**(f) Trade and Other Receivables**

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade and other receivables are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment.

**(g) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the Association that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amount normally settled within 30 days.

**(h) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the Association reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of a class of asset, the Association estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

**New Accounting Standards and Interpretations**

The entity has adopted all new accounting pronouncements which have become effective this year. None of these standards have had a material impact on the financial statements of the entity.

The AASB has issued a number of new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations which are mandatory applicable for future reporting periods. The Members have decided not to early adopt any of the new and amended pronouncements. The Members have assessed the effect these new and amended pronouncements will have on the Association and have determined that none will materially impact the Association's financial statements.

**Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

The Members evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Association.

**Key estimates**

**(i) Impairment – general**

The Association assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating the conditions and events specific to the Association that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

	2025	2024
<b>1. Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
Business Transaction Account	152,663	159,251

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

Business Transaction Acc (PF)	417,225	175,565
Sorrento Writers Festival Literacy Fund (SWFLF)	50,000	-
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>619,888</b>	<b>334,816</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>619,888</b>	<b>334,816</b>
	2025	2024

## 2. Receivables

### Current

#### Trade & Other Receivables

Accounts Receivable	450	342
GoFundMe	-	100
Sundry Debtors	-	369
<b>Total Trade &amp; Other Receivables</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>811</b>
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>811</b>
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>811</b>
	2025	2024

## 3. Intangibles

### Other Intangible Assets

Formation Costs	1,250	1,250
Less Accumulated Amortisation on Formation Costs	(813)	(563)
<b>Total Other Intangible Assets</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>687</b>
<b>Total Intangibles</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>687</b>
	2025	2024

## 4. Payables

### Current

#### Trade & Other Payables

Accounts Payable	3,343	17,291
<b>Total Trade &amp; Other Payables</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>17,291</b>
<b>PAYG Payable</b>		
PAYG Withholding Payable	8,344	9,942
<b>Total PAYG Payable</b>	<b>8,344</b>	<b>9,942</b>

#### Total Current

<b>Total Current</b>	<b>11,687</b>	<b>27,233</b>
<b>Total Payables</b>	<b>11,687</b>	<b>27,233</b>
	2025	2024

## 5. Undistributed Income

### Current Year Earnings

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

	2025	2024
Current Year Earnings	301,016	234,112
<b>Total Current Year Earnings</b>	<b>301,016</b>	<b>234,112</b>
 <b>Prior Period Profit / Losses</b>		
Retained Earnings	323,817	89,704
<b>Total Prior Period Profit / Losses</b>	<b>323,817</b>	<b>89,704</b>
 <b>Total Undistributed Income</b>	<b>624,833</b>	<b>323,817</b>

#### **Note 6: Contingent Liabilities and Commitments**

As at 30 June 2025, the entity had no contingent liabilities or commitments (2024: None).

#### **Note 7: Events After the Reporting Period**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association.

#### **Note 8: Key Management Personnel Disclosures**

The members of the Committee are the Key Management Personnel of the entity.

The following remuneration was paid or payable to Key Management Personnel during the year:

- Ms Corrie Perkin was paid \$124,151.05 (including superannuation) through a related entity for the year ending 30 June 2025 (2024: \$101,180.76).
- Mr Leng Na was paid \$42,731.88 (including superannuation) for the year ending 30 June 2025 (2024: \$17,645.21).

No other compensation was made to officers or other members of key management personnel of the incorporated association during the year.

#### **Note 9. Related Party Transactions**

##### **Transactions with Related Parties**

No material amounts were paid to or received from related parties during the year.

##### **Receivable from and Payable to Related Parties**

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

##### **Loans to/from Related Parties**

There were no loans to or from related parties at 30 June 2025.

#### **Note 10: Entity Details**

Sorrento Writers Festival is domiciled in Australia.

The registered office is Suite 137 / 425 Smith Street, Fitzroy VIC 3065.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## Depreciation Schedule

### Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

NAME	COST	OPENING VALUE	PURCHASES	DISPOSALS	DEPRECIATION	CLOSING VALUE
<b>Formation Costs</b>						
Establishment Cost	1,250	687	-	-	250	437
<b>Total Formation Costs</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>437</b>
<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>						
\$153.00 Bunnings Chairs	139	-	-	-	-	-
Corrie - Reimbursement for chairs purchased for SWF	344	-	-	-	-	-
Corrie Perkin- Reimbursement for chairs purchased for SWF	106	-	-	-	-	-
CP - Reimbursement for 100 chairs purchased at Bunnings Rosebud	918	-	918	-	918	-
CP - Reimbursement for Chairs + sand bag purchases - chairs component - Bunnings	1,082	-	1,082	-	1,082	-
Margaret McInnes- Reimbursement for chairs purchased for SWF	319	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,158</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>437</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report.

## Members' Declaration

### Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

The members declare that Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated 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 of the financial statements.

In accordance with a resolution of the Committee, the members of Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes present fairly Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 of the financial statements.
2. In the members' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Member: Peter Inge \_\_\_\_\_



Member: Corrie Perkin \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 21/11/2025

23/11/2025

# Compilation Report

## Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated For the year ended 30 June 2025

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated, which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2025, the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

### The Responsibility of the Members

The members are solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that financial statements were prepared.

### Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the members we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 *Compilation of Financial Information*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

### Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the members who are responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

DocuSigned by:  
  
E1AECF36499640A...

Kearney Group Business Advisory  
Suite 137, 425 Smith Street  
Fitzroy VIC 3065

Dated: 21/11/2025

**SORRENTO WRITERS FESTIVAL INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 20 955 969 821**

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES  
AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION ACT 2012  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF SORRENTO WRITERS FESTIVAL INCORPORATED**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

*MVAB Assurance*

**MVAB Assurance**  
Chartered Accountants



**SAM CLARINGBOLD**  
Partner

Signed at Melbourne this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025

**SORRENTO WRITERS FESTIVAL INCORPORATED**  
**ABN 20 955 969 821**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**SORRENTO WRITERS FESTIVAL INCORPORATED**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial report of Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Sorrento Writers Festival Incorporated is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012*, and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the directors of the company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the director's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

**Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report**

The directors of the Association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012*, and is appropriate to meet the needs of members. The directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Further information about our responsibilities can be found at <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

MVAB Assurance

**MVAB ASSURANCE**  
Chartered Accountants



**SAM CLARINGBOLD**  
Partner

Signed at Melbourne this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025



# 2025 Speakers

Jumaana Abdu ○ Kirsten Alexander ○ Belinda Alexandra ○ Jess Armstrong ○ Tony Armstrong ○ Robbie Arnott ○ Joe Aston ○ Tim Ayliffe ○ Julia Baird ○ Rebecca Barnard ○ Mim Bartlett ○ Eric Beecher ○ Kevin Bell ○ Aarti Betigeri ○ Christabel Blackman ○ Lech Blaine ○ Frank Bongiorno ○ Josh Bornstein ○ Judith Brett ○ Michael Brissenden ○ Fiona Brockhoff ○ Geraldine Brooks ○ Emma Sjaan Beukers ○ Nick Bryant ○ Shelley Burr ○ Julia Busutil Nishimura ○ Tim Byrne ○ Isobelle Carmody ○ Kim Carr ○ Francesca Carter ○ Barrie Cassidy ○ Michael Cathcart ○ Tarang Chawla ○ Melanie Cheng ○ Gina Chick ○ Santilla Chingaipe ○ Jonty Claypole ○ Mike Clayton ○ Madeleine Cleary ○ Inala Cooper ○ Craig Cormick ○ Teena Crawford ○ Jaclyn Crupi ○ Ian Darling ○ Michelle De Krester ○ Robert Dessaix ○ Rose Donohue ○ Brendan Donohue ○ Jo Dyer ○ Theodore Ell ○ Lisa Ellis ○ Helen Ennis ○ Heather Ewart ○ Adele Ferguson ○ Kate Fitz-Gibbon ○ Peter FitzSimons ○ Andrew Ford ○ Catherine Fox ○ Paula Fox ○ Josh Frydenberg ○ Mel Fulton ○ Helen Garner ○ Sophie Gee ○ Joëlle Gergis ○ Alexander Edward Gilly ○ Hon. Julia Gillard ○ Dennis Glover ○ Jane Godwin ○ Irma Gold ○ Libbi Gorr ○ Shaun Grant ○ Stan Grant ○ Jonathan Green ○ Sophie Gee ○ Sophie Green ○ Kate Grenville ○ Fiona Gruber ○ Madeleine Grummet ○ Charlotte Guest ○ Gideon Haigh ○ Chris Hammer ○ Nicole Hayes ○ Anita Heiss ○ Sally Hepworth ○ Hilde Hinton ○ Celia Hirsh ○ Jenny Hocking ○ Simon Holmes à Court ○ Gail Holmes ○ Jane Hone ○ Luke Horton ○ Russel Howcroft ○ Rana Hussain ○ Karen Inge ○ Peter Inge ○ Nadine Ingram ○ Erik Jensen ○ Barry Jones ○ Paul Kelly ○ Sean Kelly ○ Nina Kenwood ○ Christine Keighery ○ Grantlee Kieza ○ Andrew Knight ○ Malcolm Knox ○ Alan Kohler ○ Ramona Koval ○ Finegan Kruckemeyer ○ Kylie Ladd ○ Marcia Langton ○ Annie Lawson ○ David Leser ○ Alison Lester ○ Natasha Lester ○ Robert Lukins ○ Stephen Lunn ○ John Lyons ○ Laura Macdonald ○ Ranald Macdonald ○ Emily Maguire ○ Paddy Manning ○ Victoria Mar ○ David Marr ○ Karen Martini ○ Thomas Mayo ○ Patrick McCaughey ○ Laura McCluskey ○ Tom McIlroy ○ Dervla McTiernan ○ George Megalogenis ○ Kate Mildenhall ○ Rusty Miller ○ Rosemarie Milson ○ Guy Mirabella ○ Kylie Mirmohamadi ○ Natasha Mitchell ○ Jane Montgomery Griffiths ○ Di Morrissey ○ Rick Morton ○ Kerry O'Brien ○ Brendan O'Donohue ○ Rose O'Donohue ○ Vanessa O'Neill ○ Titus O'Reilly ○ Caroline Parker ○ Corrie Perkin ○ Steve Perkin ○ Ailsa Piper ○ Richard Piper ○ JP Pomare ○ Liz Porter ○ Sarah Pound ○ Jess Rackyleft ○ Ian Rankin ○ Hannie Rayson ○ Raeden Richardson ○ Darren Rix ○ Seth Robinson ○ Judith Rossell ○ Andrea Rowe ○ Andrew Rule ○ Judith Ryan ○ Madeleine Ryan ○ Samah Sabawi ○ Lauren Samuelsson ○ Jess Sanders ○ Julianne Schultz ○ Richard Scolyer ○ Jock Serong ○ Anthony Sharwood ○ Greg Sheridan ○ Ben Shewry ○ Michael Shmith ○ Emma Shortis ○ John Silvester ○ Inga Simpson ○ Nardi Simpson ○ Amanda Smith ○ Mark Smith ○ Annie Smithers ○ Jessica Stanley ○ Jason Steger ○ Cameron Stewart ○ Katrina Strickland ○ Anne Summers ○ Red Symonds ○ Norman Swan ○ Marion Taffe ○ Josh Taylor ○ Virginia Trioli ○ Clara Tuite ○ Michael Veitch ○ Steve Vizard ○ Anna Walker ○ Amanda Walton ○ Tasma Walton ○ Sally Warhaft ○ Don Watson ○ Christian White ○ Paulette Whitney ○ Kim Williams ○ Peter Wilmoth ○ Caroline Wilson ○ Sean Wilson ○ Dave Witty ○ Bruce Wolpe ○ Tom Wright ○ Jane Yang ○ Alice Zaslavsky

**Thank You To All Our 2025 Participating Speakers.  
We Are Especially Grateful To Those Who Waived  
All Or Part Of Their Fee So Our Festival Can Thrive.**



# Sorrento Writers Festival

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

HOTEL SORRENTO MELBOURNE PENINSULA REGIONAL TOURISM



# Our 2025 Festival, In their Words

“...a huge thank you for the wonderful, inspiring weekend. Sorrento will now forever have a place in my heart as my first writers festival as an author and what a festival it was!”

## — Marion Taffe, Debutante Author

“I just had the most ridiculously good and interesting and uplifting and affirming time at Sorrento, where I had never previously been. I swam in the bay, I swam in the ocean, I ate vanilla slice, I slept in beautiful accom, I talked about interesting ideas with interesting people and highly engaged audiences, and then I ate more vanilla slice. What more is there to life?”

## — Anthony Sharwood, Author And Journalist

“Absolutely fabulous festival. The program content and thoughtful combination of speakers was exceptional.”

## — Anonymous post-Festival survey respondent

“Thank you for bringing together such a marvellous festival. It inspired, educated, amused and made for a very special four days. Your gift of bringing together the icons of yesteryear with the talent of youth created an excellent happening. The atmosphere, administration and entertainment of being present allowed me to appreciate the wonderful Mornington Peninsula and Australia at large and people like you of vision.”

## — Susie Hamson, Festival Attendee

“Just to say what a great festival – so lovely to be there in that buzz! Thanks so much for inviting me.”

## — Kate Grenville, Award-winning Author

“It was so exciting to see it all evolve and we were delighted to welcome so many newcomers to our clubhouse on this occasion. Special thanks to the wonderful volunteers who assisted us on the day and also with setting up arrangements. Presume planning is already bubbling about for next year — we will stay tuned!”

## — Judith Mordech, Sorrento Bowl Club Member

“It was an incredible experience, thank you for inviting me to your festival, loved every minute.”

## — Guy Mirabella, Chef And Cookbook Author

“Many thanks for making our first visit to the festival so memorable. We travelled each day on the ferry across to Sorrento. Eagerly looking forward to the day's sessions. We really enjoyed each and every one of the sessions. Such a welcoming and friendly vibe from all the volunteers. Congratulations to you all. We'll be back next year.”

## — Caroline Monteith and Jen Grice, Bellarine Peninsula Festival Attendees

“What an amazing achievement! You should be immensely proud. I loved all my sessions and all the discussions I was able to see between bookselling.”

## — Tim Byrne, Moderator And Bookseller

“What a brilliant Sorrento Writers Festival it was!!! Thank you!! THANK YOU!! Such an extraordinary 4 days. An experience that we'll never forget. Min and I were so thrilled to be there and to attend so many wonderful sessions.”

## — Ian Darling, Filmmaker And Philanthropist

“I absolutely loved the festival and everything about it but most of all the fabulous vibe of the town was exciting.”

## — Anonymous Post-Festival Survey Respondent

“Thank you for another fabulous year at the SWF. A great reason to come down from Sydney and see my old friends. Again I had a wonderful time. Highlights: Julia Gillard, and anything with Barry Jones and Tom Wright. I went from woe to go only missing an occasional session to have a swim or check out of my hotel Loved the 'Countdown' night - dancing was brilliant !”

## — Deborah Burdett, Festival Attendee

“It's a miracle of community and shared hope and intelligence.”

## — Ailsa Piper, Writer, Performer And Moderator

# With Thanks, Sorrento Writers Festival



The Sorrento Writers Festival takes this opportunity to thank publicly the many hundreds of people who support our enterprise. Your enthusiasm has allowed our organisation to grow. We now have the resources to operate a year-round events program across the Mornington Peninsula and Melbourne.

On July 1, 2025, the Sorrento Writers Festival Literacy Fund was formally established. Already, our Fund is making a difference among children who are learning to read in our region and we have so far donated \$10,000 to book initiatives at Mornington Peninsula primary schools.

The Festival would be nothing without our nation's talented writers. In 2025 we are indebted to the 220 writers and authors, academics, journalists, community leaders, commentators, and creative thinkers who brought our April event to life. We thank them for coming to Sorrento, and we thank them for stories they shared, and the many ideas they sparked.

To our festival-goers, we also say thank you. Each year, you purchase tickets, you tell your family and friends, you fill your households with Festival visitors, you buy our visiting authors' books, and you make all guests feel welcome. You are the Sorrento Writers Festival's biggest fans, and we are enormously appreciative of your support.

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We thank Sorrento's Community and the wider Mornington Peninsula cohort of Festival-goers. Our beautiful region plays host to so many exciting events during the year; with your networks, you have included the Sorrento Writers Festival as a diary date not to miss. This means a great deal to our team and we acknowledge your friendship.

On behalf of all 2025 Festival attendees, we express our gratitude to those local venues who played host to our events during the year. They are: The Continental Hotel, Sorrento Community Centre, Sorrento-Portsea RSL, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Ellen Grant Hall, Sorrento Bowls Club, Sorrento Museum, Sorrento Masonic Centre, The Baths Sorrento and Portsea Surf Life Saving Club.

The Festival also thanks our blue t-shirt band of volunteers, overseen by Operations Manager Isabel Pinkster and Volunteers Co-ordinator Melinda Williams. This year we welcomed 192 volunteers from all around the Mornington Peninsula, Melbourne and regional Victoria whose ages ranged from early 20s to late 70s. We celebrate our volunteers' strong sense of community give-back, and we thank them for making our visitors feel welcomed, included, informed and safe.

The Sorrento Writers Festival's financial stability would not be possible without the ongoing support of many organisations, individuals and friends. To all of these generous benefactors, please know your generosity ensures the security and viability of our Festival, and enables us to plant seeds for future growth. From 2022 when we held our first conversations with the then mayor Anthony Marsh, the Mornington Shire Council has shown faith in the Sorrento Writers Festival's capacity to add value to our local region. We were delighted when Cr Marsh – once again serving a term as mayor – spoke on the final day of this year's Festival and reiterated Council's support for our organisation. We thank the Mayor, his council colleagues and staff for their ongoing commitment to the Sorrento Writers Festival.

The Festival would also like to express its heartfelt gratitude to business executive and philanthropist Jane Hansen AO and the Hansen Little Foundation for its generous support. Jane's interest in our program and organisational development is deeply valued and we thank her for her friendship and, with husband Paul Little, her Foundation's significant financial donation.

We thank Jan Cochrane-Harry, co-trustee of the Margaret Lawrence Bequest, for her ongoing advocacy of Sorrento Writers Festival. We also greatly appreciate Perpetual Trustees linking our organisations and for managing the Bequest.

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It is with enormous appreciation and a strong sense of history, we thank the Sidney Myer Fund, its trustees, family members and staff for acknowledging the important role of the arts and cultural organisations in Australian's lives. The Myer Family has a long and ongoing connection to Sorrento and we thank everyone involved for the Fund's financial support. We also pay special tribute to Marigold, Lady Southey AC, the youngest child of Sidney and Merlyn Myer, who has been a Sorrento resident since birth and is one of the Festival's treasured patrons.

We also thank the Sydney-based Balnaves Foundation for its 2025 support of our secondary schools program. Thank you to the Mornington Peninsula Foundation which once again contributed to sessions relating to literacy and children's book engagement.

Back in early 2024, the Sunday Morning Coffee Boys group each pledged three-year donations to the Festival. The engagement of these kind local donors and their families means a great deal to our organisation and underpins our private donor program. Their pledge has also allowed us to plan and pitch forward with confidence as a festival, and as a not-for-profit organisation.

The Festival also thanks Visit Victoria and the Mornington Peninsula Regional Tourism Board for acknowledging the Festival's positive economic and tourism impact on our region; we are grateful recipients of State Government funding. We are also indebted to the Sorrento Chamber of Commerce for funding our street flags and signage during the April festival.

Sorrento Writers Festival is fortunate to have a small but generous and deeply-engaged group of corporate partners. We greatly appreciate their ongoing financial commitment to the Festival, and we thank them for buying tickets, attending events, bringing their staff, hosting and introducing sessions, and spreading the Festival word through their organisations and networks. In alphabetical order, we thank Coote Family Lawyers, Kay & Burton, Otomys Art Gallery, Pitcher Partners, Thomson Geer Lawyers and Village Glen for their corporate leadership and sense of community responsibility.

We are lucky, also, to have other corporate friends whose philanthropy came "in kind" and allowed us to plan and create while remaining fiscally responsible. These organisations include: The Continental Hotel – once again the Festival hub and place of so many extraordinary 2025 highlights; the InterContinental Hotel and Hotel Sorrento who make it possible for our speaker visitors to stay overnight in very fine accommodation; Hutton House, our PR and media specialists; I-Nex, our data, website and technology provider, and its most excellent ArtFuel ticketing system; our friends at The Baths whose venue supports our event during the year; AV and staging specialist Mark Bollenberg, and Outlook Communications and Sonder DJs and Events.

In June, 2025, Sorrento Writers Festival held its annual trivia night – this year at the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club, with MC Brian Nankervis once again in charge of the night. The event raised more than \$10,000 for the Literacy Fund. We thank organiser Jane McCubbin, Michael Hirsh, Tim Koren from Sonder DJs and Events, a team of wonderful helpers including Festival staff Isabel Pinkster and Esme Harrington, our Interval act Peter Koren, a team of wonderful helpers the Portsea Surf Life Saving Club and those businesses which generously donated prizes including Main Ridge Dairy, Avenue Bookstore, Drummond Golf, Portsea Estate Wines, Chyka and Bruce Keebaugh of The Big Group, Cape Merchants in Sorrento, Alba Thermal Springs and Spa, and Baked in Portsea.

We also thank media partners ABC Radio National, Human Cogs and SEN, and the team at The Wheeler Centre for their friendship and for promoting our Festival.

The Festival Committee is indebted to Leng Na for his excellent bookkeeping services, and our accountants at Kearney Group.

Thank you to graphic designers Jasmin Tulk, Sonnet Studios and Kate Slattery; printers Southern Impact for the printed program and marketing collateral, photographers Leigh Henningham, Gena Ferguson and Hugh Stewart, the digital team at Hutton House, and all other marketing and promotion support we receive throughout the community.

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# Thank you to everyone involved for making it possible.

Avenue Bookstore owner Chris Redfern once again provided a world-class festival bookstore which engaged our audiences, and supported our writer and publisher friends. It is a huge job, bumping multiple pop bookstores in and out around Festival venues and we thank Chris and his team for their extraordinary commitment across the four-day April weekend.

Sorrento Village is also fortunate to have its own indie bookstore, Antipodes. Our gratitude to Jane McAuliffe and her staff for promoting and supporting the Festival throughout the year.

The Sorrento Writers Festival remains indebted to the Hon. Barry Jones AC FAA FAHA FTSE FASSA FACE FRSA, for the many ways he supports our endeavour. Aside from his academic and political achievements, Barry is also an author and a voracious reader. From 2010-11 he chaired the Rudd Government's Book Industry Strategy Group and is a long-time supporter of writers festivals and literary events. We are thrilled to host the annual Barry Jones Oration in his honour, and this year we welcomed former Prime Minister Julia Gillard AC as guest speaker.

We acknowledge the role of Festival patrons Kate Baillieu, the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG, Professor Marcia Langton AO, Lady Marigold Southey AC and David Williamson AO and honour the many ways they contribute to Australian life, the arts, the environment and learning.

Sorrento Writers Festival is led by its general committee – President Peter Inge, Treasurer Narelle Cormack, Rose Donohoe, Nicholas Martin, Mandy Rethus and Director and CEO Corrie Perkin. In 2025 the organisation has grown to include four part-time staff and more than 190 volunteers. We thank everyone for their hard work and extraordinary contribution to all aspects of our operations.

The Sorrento Writers Festival is a highlight of the Australian literary calendar. Writers want to appear here, publishers want to visit. Readers love to immerse themselves, children are fascinated. And anyone who appreciates big ideas, discussions and learning, current affairs, literature, music and words finds sparks and provocations within our program.

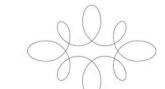
We are proud to produce a world-class festival in a small beachside town of great beauty and warm friendship. Everyone is welcome.





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# Thank you, and we'll see you next year.

