



PO Box 78, Nedlands, WA 6909
E-mail: nightparrotpress@gmail.com
Web : www.nightparrotpress.com



NIGHT PARROT PRESS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Financial year 2021-2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Night Parrot Press acknowledges the Noongar people as the spiritual and cultural custodians of the land on which we publish. We honour and respect First Nations stories and express our gratitude for this heritage of powerful storytelling.

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OUR VISION

We believe everyone has the ability to write stories and we believe everyone should be able to share those stories. We want to:

- Give opportunity to those who haven't had access to traditional writing and publishing avenues
- Empower young writers with lower literacy levels with the confidence to find their voices
- Position new young writers as leading lights to others in their communities
- Develop and celebrate unique stories by storytellers from diverse backgrounds across the state
- Celebrate emerging writers through the publication of their stories
- Be innovators in new storytelling forms and gain national and international recognition for our work in publishing flash and micro fiction
- Give opportunity to emerging publishing practitioners including designers, typesetters, illustrators
- Mentor emerging editors.

To achieve this vision, we will:

- Seek out grants and funding opportunities for projects
- Hold flash and micro writing workshops at schools and in community centres
- Mentor new writers, through development and editing
- Publish flash and micro anthologies of emerging youth writers
- Publish anthologies of adult emerging writers alongside experienced writers writing in new forms
- Collaborate with emerging industry professionals
- Provide editorial internships
- Appear at literary festivals and events
- Judge writing competitions



‘In an environment where the arts are losing funding, where creativity struggles to be heard, where publishers big and small are crumbling, how brave and beautiful are these two women, who love what they do, who love writing, and this special form of fiction. So they have taken their passion, mentored so many emerging writers in WA and made a lovely thing happen.’

Gillian O’Shaughnessy



FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the board of Night Parrot Press, I am delighted to present the 2022 annual report.

The global pandemic has made it increasingly difficult for writers to achieve publication, hold events and promote their work. West Australian writers, who often get overlooked in the national reviewing culture and at interstate writers’ festivals, continue to be more disadvantaged. It is in this at times dispiriting context that I wish to celebrate the vision and work of Night Parrot Press.

Three years ago, Laura Keenan and Linda Martin, both highly experienced editors and passionate readers, challenged themselves to create a publishing house devoted to Western Australians writing in the shorter narrative form. They were, and remain, excited by the prospect of promoting local writers and building on the growing popularity of flash and micro fiction. This year, Night Parrot Press, has seen the production of two well-received books: a second anthology of flash fiction, *Twice Not Shy: One hundred short short stories*, and Ros Thomas’s *How to Shame the Devil*. Laura and Linda have been closely involved with the production and promotion of these books: the selection of submissions; editing; mentoring editors; organising book launches and author events; securing invitations to writer’s festivals; and creating relationships with Perth’s independent bookshops. This tireless and enthusiastic work, completed mostly on an unpaid basis, means that Night Parrot Press has already and rightly earned the respect of the writing and reading community in WA.

I also wish to pay tribute to the encouragement by Night Parrot Press of emerging writers and editors. Such work has contributed to the creation of an ongoing, vibrant writing culture. Workshops have also created great interest in the pleasures and challenges of writing flash fiction.

The success of Night Parrot Press in the 2021–2022 financial year

has also been financial. The Press received funding from the West Australian Department of Local Government, Cultural Industries and Sport, book sales, and ticketing sales from writing workshops and author events. The next step is to secure more and sustained funding; to this end, the board will establish a sub-committee focused on obtaining financial support from a range of sources. This work will be crucial. While long-term funding would be ideal, all avenues for funding must be vigorously and rigorously pursued.

While publication and sales are tangible measures of the success of a publishing house, a far less tangible but equally important sign is the satisfaction of both writers and readers. Launches, word-of-mouth and author events have made evident the joy and pride for writers that comes with publication, and the pleasure that readers take in the provocations, pathos and humour of the shorter narrative form. Such community enthusiasm is result of the hard work and energy of Laura and Linda. They have created something unique and valuable in the West Australian writing community.

Dr Susan Midalia



FROM THE CEOs

The past year has been incredibly busy and rewarding for Night Parrot Press. We published a second anthology of flash fiction by Western Australian writers, both emerging and established, and took a risk with publishing our first novella, *How to Shame the Devil*, by Ros Thomas. Both publications proved their profitability, going to reprint within the first four months of release. We continued to run flash fiction workshops in schools and community centres, judged flash writing competitions, and received our first invitation as panelists to the Perth Festival Writers Weekend. As book sales and social media followers indicate, our brand recognition is growing by leaps and bounds within WA and beyond.

In the 2021-22 financial year, we secured funding from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) for two publications (*Miniatures* and *Three Can Keep a Secret*), scheduled for release in the 2022-23 financial year. This funding enabled us to pay authors and professionals and we are extremely grateful for the support of DLGSC. Going forward, we endeavour to generate more income for Night Parrot Press. While we have been able to pay for some administration fees, most of our publishing work has been on a volunteer basis. We have come to realise that if the Press is to be sustainable, it must be able to pay its publishers and have ongoing administrative support.

Looking forward, we hope to continue Night Parrot Press's growth as a respected and innovative publisher of short-form fiction. We will continue our focus on providing publishing platforms for new and emerging writers, established authors writing in new forms, mentoring youth writers, and offering opportunities for emerging editors, designers and illustrators. We believe the spirit of stewardship and cultivating new talent is a valuable investment in creating a vibrant and sustainable arts community.

Numerous writers, board members and supporters helped us to make the year a success, and we can't thank this amazing community enough for their belief, encouragement, creativity and time. We look forward to learning, growing and celebrating future success with this generous community.

Laura Keenan and Linda Martin

SNAPSHOT OF 2021-2022

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

852 FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM



709 FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK



94 FOLLOWERS ON LINKEDIN



90 FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER



NIGHT PARROT PRESS

In facts and numbers



PUBLISHED WRITERS



PUBLISHED STORIES



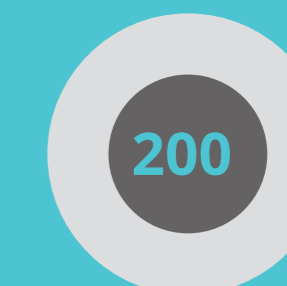
PRINT PUBLICATIONS



BOOKS IN PRODUCTION



MENTORSHIPS



WORKSHOP ATTENDEES



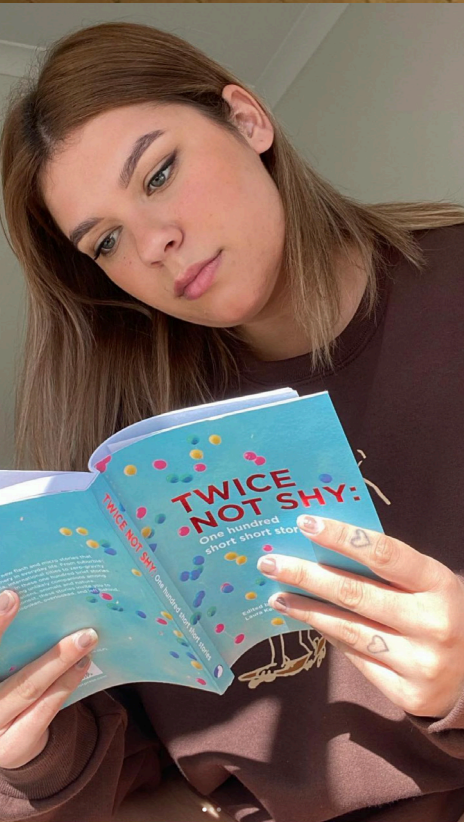
FESTIVAL APPEARANCE



WEBINAR AND
PODCAST



COMPETITION



OUR AUTHORS

In the last year, 61 Western Australian new, emerging and experienced writers had their work published in print by Night Parrot Press. Seven of these writers were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. We thank the following authors for being an integral part of Night Parrot Press.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Carolyn Abbs | Laura Keenan |
| Cassie Ahearne | Luke Kelly |
| David Allan-Petale | Beth Kirkland |
| Rachel Armstrong | Paul J Laverty |
| Alicia Bakewell | Martin Lindsay |
| Matt Beamish | Robyn Lunn |
| Nicki Blake | Linda Martin |
| Aileen Boyer | Susan Midalia |
| Olivier Breton | Scott-Patrick Mitchell |
| Amy Budrikis | Amber Moffat |
| Ariane Chavez | Rashida Murphy |
| Hannah Cockroft | Rebecca M Newman |
| Alison Davis | Caroline-Iris Nutter |
| Sabrina Dudgeon-Swift | Gillian O'Shaughnessy |
| Brooke Dunnell | Emily Paull |
| Kiri Falls | Daniel Pitt |
| Ellie Fisher | Jo Pollitt |
| Miriam Fisher | Nadia Rhook |
| Jess Gately | Lisa Rodrigues |
| Mabel Gibson | Reaf Rogers |
| Leonard Goulds | Dettra Rose |
| Diana Grove | Guy Salvidge |
| Mark Hackleton | Elfie Shiosaki |
| Peter Horgan | Gemma Sidney |
| Geoff Hutchison | Tim Stalker |
| Rachel Isaacson | Stevie Sutton |
| Bronwyn Jones | Melanie Talbot |
| Mark Hackleton | Ros Thomas |
| Peter Horgan | Yann Toussaint |
| Geoff Hutchison | Catherine Traicos |
| Rachel Isaacson | Emily Tsokos Purtill |
| Bronwyn Jones | Sabian Wilde |
| Priya Kahlon | Nikki Wilson-Smith |

OUR BOOKS

Twice Not Shy: One hundred short short stories

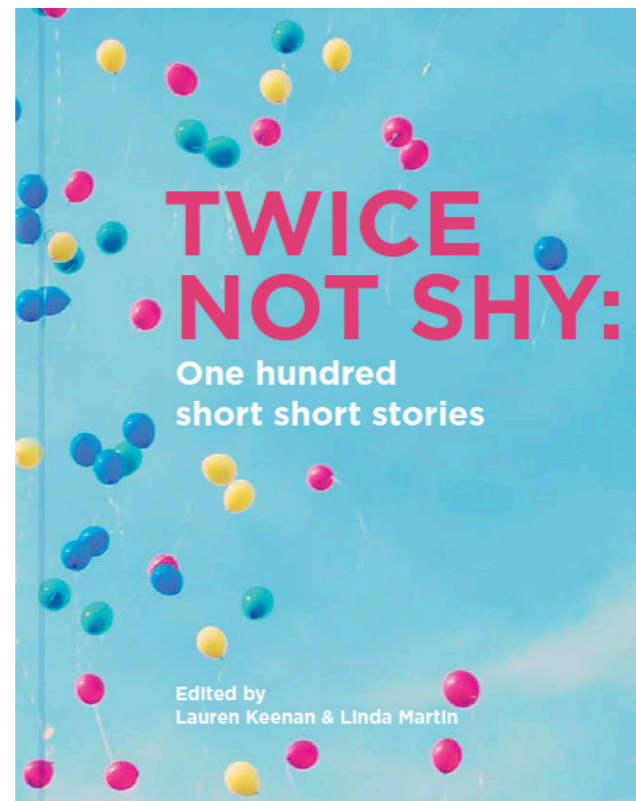
Twice Not Shy by various authors was launched in April 2021 (postponed due to a Covid lockdown) at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club. Over 150 authors, friends and family attended the launch. With food, wine and readings by Gillian O'Shaughnessy, Priya Khalon, Sabrina Dudgeon-Swift (reading for Daniel Pitt), and Susan Midalia, the evening was very successful. Our first print run of 500 copies almost sold out under two months and we reprinted 350 copies in July 2021.

'[Twice Not Shy] speaks to very human themes: love, longing, and connection. It's amazing to be able to read such short stories that tackle big emotions and life events, and so often in a light-hearted manner.'
Lauren Pratt, Underground Writers

'Twice Not Shy showcases the best of Western Australian authors writing in this exciting, challenging and condensed genre. Small but mighty, the stories linger long after reading them.'

Nancy Stohlman, American Writer, Performer, Professor

'[...] Twice Not Shy is a zesty feast of micro-tales covering a huge variety of themes and topics, from funny, sad, and enigmatic, to poignant, weird and wonderful.'
Writing WA



How to Shame the Devil

How to Shame the Devil by Ros Thomas was launched in November 2022 at the Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club. The book was launched by Sir Nicholas Hasluck with introduction by Laura Keenan and a very engaging speech by Ros Thomas. Over 190 people enjoyed food, wine and good company. Our first print run of 2000 copies was selling so fast that we reprinted another 1000 copies in March 2022. How to Shame the Devil continues to sell with bookclubs and has received interest from a film production company. We are delighted to have Ros Thomas as an author and thank her for all she has done in promoting her work and Night Parrot Press.

'Ros Thomas's writing is startlingly funny, revealing and profoundly genuine – she has the full writer's arsenal.'
Robert Drewe

'Clever, entertaining, beautifully crafted, disturbing and full of humanity. An original take on the #MeToo phenomenon, with the wonderful Ros Thomas at her most witty and compelling.'
Will Yeoman, The West Australian

'Ros Thomas writes with stylistic flair, a deft sense of humour, a vivid sense of time and place, and a generous, compassionate heart.'
Susan Midalia, Author





WORKSHOPS

Night Parrot Press continued delivering workshops at schools, the community and in libraries. Our workshops attracted over 200 participants and included:

Mater Dei College, 4 and 5 April 2022 – 87 students

The Claisebrook Bar, 19 Feb 2022 – 28 people

City of Melville – 8 Sep 2021

Swan View Senior High School – 23 students (in-kind workshop)

Rockingham Youth Centre, July school holidays 2022 – 12 youth

Rockingham Central Library, 22 July 2022 – 30 adults

A wonderful workshop highlighting the power of tight prose. Laura and Linda are gorgeous ladies, full of knowledge of their craft and they make a great team. Laura's parrot earrings showed true dedication to the brand! Thank you for a lovely morning and please let me know if you run another.

[Christy Hatcher](#)

Thanks Linda and Laura for spending 2 days with us - it was inspiring to see what the students were able to create and wonderful to hear them excitedly talk about writing back in our classes. It was a wonderful experience for them.

[Penny Mulley, Head of English, Mater Dei College, Edgewater](#)

What was your favourite thing about the workshop?

All the nice people . Opportunity to learn a new writing style. Meeting new people. Writing stories and learning. That we got to do individual writing pieces. Learning about different genre of writing and being able to explore it. Writing the stories. Hearing other's stories. The people who worked here. The different work and writing.

Any other feedback?

Thank you, it was awesome.

Fun experience.

[City of Rockingham Questionnaire](#)

EDITING AND PUBLISHING MENTORSHIPS

Night Parrot Press believes it is important to provide the next generation of editors and publishing personnel with editing and publishing skills in order to establish a career in publishing. In 2022, Night Parrot Press welcomed three talented professionals to the team.

Casey Mulder, a recipient of the Magabala Creative Development Scholarship, undertook an editing mentorship with Night Parrot Press over 2022. The mentorship allowed Casey to observe the publishing processes at Night Parrot Press. Within this, Casey also co-edited *Miniatures* by Susan Midalia (published July 2022) and provided cultural advice and editing on stories in *Three Can Keep a Secret* (published October 2022). Night Parrot Press is very grateful to Casey for the valuable editing and publishing contributions she made to the Press, and is honoured to have been shared relevant Indigenous cultural knowledge.

Since completing the Creative Development Scholarship, I have been given several paid editing and proofreading opportunities with HarperCollins, and have joined a network called First Nations and People of Colour in Publishing. I have also taken on the role of First Nations Editor at *Westerly Magazine* and have also received a Writing Fellowship at the Centre for Stories in Perth, where I am working on a memoir manuscript over the next year. This Scholarship has opened the door to many other opportunities, and I am very grateful for the support of Magabala.
(Casey Mulder)



Asha Burnett and Emily Elliot, two students from Edith Cowan University, joined the team as mentees and volunteers in May 2022. Already, Asha and Emily have made great contributions to Night Parrot Press, in particular their editing of stories and communicating with Flash Lab writers. Night Parrot Press thanks Asha and Emily for their tireless work, enthusiasm and skills. They have been an integral part of the team.

Working as a junior editor at Night Parrot Press has been an incredible learning opportunity that I am extremely grateful for. Being able to apply my university learnings in a practical environment has been both rewarding and educative. Laura and Linda have been passionate, knowledgeable and supportive mentors and having the chance to work in the publishing industry has been immensely helpful in strengthening my editorial and communication skills.
(Asha Burnett)



We were delighted to have Jess Gately work with Night Parrot Press as production coordinator for the *Twice Not Shy* collection. Jess made a wonderful contribution to the team, not only with her coordination skills, but also her marketing and publicity talents.

DESIGN MENTORSHIPS

In 2021 we worked with emerging illustrator Claire Martin on the publication of *Twice Not Shy*. A West Australian artist living abroad in Belfast, she worked on dozens of illustrations for the internal pages of *Twice Not Shy*, while she was in Covid lockdown.



In January 2022 Mali Merttens, a young graduate designer from Curtin University, contacted Night Parrot Press to see if she could get some work experience as a designer. Editors Laura Keenan, Linda Martin and Casey Mulder mentored and worked closely with Mali on the covers for *Miniatures* and *Three Can Keep a Secret*, and offered Mali typesetting and internal design for *Three Can Keep a Secret*. Night Parrot Press was also able to secure funding for both publications which enabled Mali to be financially rewarded for her wonderful design work.

Working with Night Parrot Press has been a wonderful opportunity. It was great to be a part of such a creative community. Thank you for your encouragement and support!
(Mali Merttens)

PANELS, TALKS, EVENTS

[Perth Festival, Writers Weekend, 26 Feb 2022](#)

Night Parrot Press authors were invited to be in a panel moderated by writer Rashida Murphy: 'Little Fictions, the art of the short short story'. It was a very successful event with editor and writer Linda Martin, and writers Mabel Gibson and Susan Midalia discussing everything flash.

[Flash Lab](#)

Following the success of its Rockingham Youth flash workshop, Night Parrot Press established Flash Lab in 2022. This online publishing opportunity is for young people between the ages of 12 and 17. Selected stories are edited and, with the author's permission, the story of the week is published on the Night Parrot Press website.

[Love to Read Local Flash Fiction Competition](#)

Night Parrot Press editors Laura Keenan and Linda Martin were once again judges of Writing WA's Love to Read Local Flash Fiction competition for the third year running. Throughout April 2022, the editors received over 100 entries. Winner Barry Divola, and runners up Emily Tsokos Purtill and Jay Chesters were celebrated at a wonderful Writing WA Sector event held at the Royal Hotel in Perth on 3 June.

Blog

Night Parrot press created a blog on their website so that interested flash fiction writers could find information and tips about writing flash fiction. The blog includes:

How to write and edit flash fiction, by Laura Keenan and Linda Martin

In praise of the shorter narrative form, by Susan Midalia (guest blogger)

Five competitions to enter your flash fiction (and why you definitely should), by Gillian O'Shaughnessy (guest blogger)

Writing WA Webinar – All about Flash

In April 2022, Laura Keenan and Linda Martin spoke with Carrie Cox from Writing WA about flash fiction. The hour-long webinar included information on what constitutes flash fiction, how to write flash fiction and how to join the flash writing community. The webinar can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-rPQWJ10H8>

Writers Off the Page Podcast – Publishing Flash Fiction

Journalist and writer Chene Marrapodi interviewed Laura Keenan and Linda Martin for her Podcast series. The forty-minute podcast included tips for writing a good piece of flash and micro fiction, and announced the opening of submissions for the new anthology *Three Can Keep a Secret*. Marrapodi herself discovered that in writing flash fiction, 'the narrative arc can be off the page!' The podcast can be listened to at: <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/night-parrot-press-publishing-flash-fiction/id1573352797?i=1000555023111>

WINNER ANNOUNCED

- LOVE TO

Flash Fiction Competition

Writing WA x Raine Square x Night Parrot Press

READ LOCAL

Writing WA Webinar Series

All About Flash!

WRITING WA.

NIGHT PARROT PRESS

FINANCIALS

DYSON ADVISORY GROUP

Income Statement

Night Parrot Press Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	NOTES	2022
Gross Profit from Trading		
Sales		
Book Sales		14,691
Workshops		2,180
Total Sales		16,871
Total Gross Profit from Trading		16,871
Other Income		
Grant Income		24,535
Other Revenue		62
Total Other Income		24,597
Total Income		41,468
Expenses		
Administration Expenses		7,000
Advertising and Marketing		1,803
Bank Fees		50
Freelancers		9,975
Illustration		1,500
Meeting Expenses		45
Postage		823
Printing & Stationery		7,542
Subscriptions		722
Sundry Expenses		128
Workshop Expenses		115
Total Expenses		29,702
Profit / (Loss)		11,767

DYSON ADVISORY GROUP

Balance Sheet

Night Parrot Press Incorporated
As at 30 June 2022

	NOTES	30 JUN 2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank		22,257
Accounts Receivable		3,086
Sundry Debtors		72
Total Current Assets		25,415
Total Assets		25,415
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		1,155
Loan - Laura Keenan & Linda Martin		12,494
Total Current Liabilities		13,648
Total Liabilities		13,648
Net Assets		11,767
Equity		
Retained Earnings		11,767
Total Equity		11,767

FUNDING DONORS AND PARTNERS

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC)

Night Parrot Press was successful in securing two publishing grants from DLGSC. The first was for the production, author payments and printing of *Three Can Keep a Secret*, and the second was for the production, editing and printing of *Miniatures*. Night Parrot Press is extremely grateful to DLGSC for the funding, which has enabled Night Parrot Press to operate in the past financial year.



Magabala Books

Magabala Books provided Casey Mulder and Night Parrot Press with a Creative Development Scholarship which allowed Casey to undertake an editing and publishing mentorship with Night Parrot Press. The collaboration and mentoring has been of such benefit to Night Parrot Press as it not only allowed the press to contribute to mentoring new industry professionals, but enabled the press to benefit from the wisdom, skills and professionalism of Casey Mulder. Night Parrot Press is very grateful to Magabala Books for this valuable opportunity.

Randal Humich

In June 2022, Randal Humich offered Night Parrot Press a temporary home in an upstairs office on the corner of Barrack and Murray Streets in the city. This has provided Night Parrot Press with a well-needed base from which to operate business. Night Parrot Press is extremely grateful to Randal for his generous support.

Bookshops

Thank you to all the bookshops who generously support Night Parrot Press.



NIGHT PARROT PRESS STAFF

Laura Keenan and Linda Martin are co-publishers and editors of Night Parrot Press. They met in 2010 when they worked as editors at UWA Publishing in Crawley, Western Australia. Since 2019, they have operated as Night Parrot Press, mostly on a volunteer basis.

Laura Keenan's career as an editor spans twenty years, working for publishers including the Perseus Books Group (USA) and UWA Publishing. She runs flash fiction writing workshops in schools, libraries and community centres, encouraging others to obsess over small, intense stories.



Linda Martin lectures in editing and publishing at ECU. She has edited for UWA Publishing, Fremantle Press and Magabala books, and her writing has been published in Westerly, Cordite Scholarly and international flash fiction journals.



NIGHT PARROT PRESS BOARD



Susan Midalia, Chair

Susan is the author of three short story collections, all shortlisted for major Australian literary awards, and two novels. Her flash fiction has been published in anthologies and journals, and her collection of new flash fiction and micro-fiction will be published with Night Parrot Press in 2022. Susan studied at UWA and Cambridge University and holds a PhD in contemporary Australian women's fiction. Susan also works as a freelance editor and mentor to emerging writers, and is the current Prose Editor for *Westerly* magazine and Chair of the Australian Short Story Festival.

Cassie Ahearne, Deputy Chair

Cassie has extensive experience developing and implementing governance frameworks in the Public Sector. In her current role as Director Business Services at Lotterywest, she creates the conditions in which good governance thrives; ensuring staff have the resources and support to manage their contracts, projects and records effectively.

Brendan Martin, Treasurer

Brendan is a Chartered Accountant and Assistant Manager at Dyson Advisory Group with experience in providing taxation advice and business advisory services to a wide range of clients, from small businesses to large proprietary companies to high net wealth individuals. Brendan has worked with clients across varying industries including not-for-profit, pharmaceutical, hospitality, professional services and property development.

Romy l'Dell, Secretary

Romy is a third-year student at Edith Cowan University. She is studying a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Creative and Professional Writing. She works as a usability analyst for people with disabilities, focusing on websites and mobile

apps. She also provides contract administration work for small businesses, where she helps edit and manage important documents.

Mabel Gibson, General Member

Mabel is a Yamatji writer. She spent her childhood in Albany and moved to Geraldton as a teenager, before becoming a student at the University of Western Australia. Her flash and micro pieces have been published in *Once: A selection of short short stories* and *Twice Not Shy: One hundred short short stories* by Night Parrot Press, and *maar bidi: next generation black writing* by Magabala Books.

Casey Mulder, General Member

Casey is a Ballardong Noongar woman with Dutch and English heritage. She grew up on Ballardong country, and now lives and works on Wadjuk country. She has 12 years of teaching experience and is now the Coordinator of Teaching and Learning (Indigenous Students) at the School of Indigenous Studies, UWA. She has always loved storytelling in all its forms. She recently received a Creative Development Scholarship from Magabala Books, to complete an editing mentorship at Night Parrot Press.

Gillian O'Shaughnessy, General Member

Gillian has 24 years of experience in journalism and broadcasting with the ABC, working in radio, television and online news. She presented the Afternoon Show on ABC Radio Perth and Western Australia from 2007 to 2020. Gillian is a submission editor for the literary journal, *Smokelong Quarterly*, and Program Associate and curator for the 2022 Perth Festival Writers Weekend.

Meelee Soorkia, General Member

Meelee is General Manager at Community Arts Network. She has several years experience in managing creative projects and teams. Meelee worked as a book editor in Melbourne for more than a decade. In 2019 she joined Community Arts Network in Perth, where she contributes her professional learning and lived experience to the cultural change being implemented at the organisation.

NIGHT PARROT PRESS