CEOs report

KATE ETLHAM

QWC members are going from strength to strength, with a slew of book contracts achieved by Queensland writers in 2008, including six debuts, Belinda Jeffery, J. J. Cooper, Krissy Kneen, Kirsten Raad, Amy Vought Barker and Christine Bonaro and all celebrating the sale of their first books to Australian publishers.

Queensland authors were also well represented in literary awards, including Trent Jamieson who received the 2008 Aurealis Award for Best Young Adult Short Story. Queensland is now established as the home of some of the best new literature being published in Australia and around the world and QWC is proud to support this.

QWC achieved an end-of-year surplus of $25,668, increase to members' equity to $157,022. This represents modest growth for the organisation and a strong financial position balanced against our ever-increasing program of services and initiatives for Queensland writers. While other sectors have been hard hit by financial uncertainty, we are proud to achieve continued growth.

Our success means we can afford to pay larger sums directly to our members in the form of employment for workshops, seminars and conferences, as well as for their work in the Australian Writers’ Marketplace and Writing Queensland magazine. In an industry where the median income for Australian writers is just $11,000 per year, the money authors can earn through such employment is critical to sustaining writing as a profession. In 2008, Queensland Writers Centre paid more than $151,000 directly to authors and creative professionals.

In 2008 we pushed even further into regional Queensland, visiting communities in Goodinwinni, Cunninnulla, Mount Isa and Cooktown. Our regional liaison officers in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Bundaberg have been QWC’s face in regional communities, forging new partnerships and opportunities that enable us to make our needs of writers and communities felt throughout the state.

The 10th edition of The Australian Writer’s Marketplace was launched by Australian author John Marsen at the Melbourne Writers Festival in August. John spoke at the launch of the importance of authors respecting the tools and support networks they need to pursue a professional career as writers. The Australian Writer’s Marketplace, and now its online companion AWM Online, remains the essential resource in any Australian author’s toolkit.

Our key partners continue to be strong pillars in QWC’s success and are our able to deliver great outcomes for Queensland writers. I particularly acknowledge and thank Arts Queensland for their support, guidance and partnership in serving the needs of the literature sector. We have also enjoyed building new initiatives with publishing partners, such as Hachette Australia, with whom we delivered two intensive manuscript development retreats in 2008 for emerging Australian authors. This program has already resulted in a two book publishing contract for one participant, the first, we hope, of many yet to come.

I continue to be inspired and energised by the talent and enthusiasm of QWC’s members, our vibrant and diverse community of authors writing across all genres and forms. I am extremely proud to be serving as CEO during this exciting time in the organisation’s history.

Furthermore, QWC is very pleased to announce our relationship with the Queensland Poetry Festival and the Brisbane Writers Festival, in addition to activities through Queensland Writers Centre in Cairns, Bundaberg and the Sunshine Coast.

Chair’s report

THEODORA LE SOUQUET

2008 has been an exceptional year for Queensland Writers Centre (QWC), in maintaining our mission to support and promote writing culture in Queensland. QWC actively contributes to the writing industry, as well as the professional development and practice of writers to advance their recognition locally, nationally and internationally.

Highlights for the year were many, leading with regional engagement as a key priority of QWC. Through a robust network of partnerships with local councils, regional universities and community organisations, QWC has delivered more than 24 events to members in locations as diverse as Blackall, Bundaberg, Cairns, Charters Towers, Cunninnulla, Emerald, Gold Coast, Longreach, Mackay, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Roma, Sunshine Coast, and Townsville. Our 2008 program stretched right across the states of Queensland, from the Gold Coast to Cooktown, and from Rockhampton to Goodinwinni.

QWC launched the 10th print edition of The Australian Writer’s Marketplace at the Melbourne Writers Festival with prominent author, John Marsden. The online equivalent of The Australian Writer’s Marketplace, AWM Online has grown and strengthened its market position as an industry leader, with a new streamlined website that makes it easier for subscribers to use and build a thriving online community.

A beautiful new QWC website was also launched, with more resources like The Empty Page blog that you can subscribe to, an extensive My QWC section for members, an online shop, extensive resources, competitions, opportunities and overall increased accessibility.

QWC is very pleased to announce our relationship with the Queensland Premier’s Library Awards, providing manuscript development and our ongoing partnership with the State Library of Queensland.

Congratulations to Fiona Stager from Avid Reader Bookshop in Brisbane’s West End, who was named the 2008 Johnno Award winner. Fiona was been recognised for her vision and effectiveness in creating a presence and dignity for Queensland writers.

Michael Hofmann from Freiburg, Germany (now based in the UK/USA) took up residency in Queensland the 2008 Arts Queensland Poet in Residence. From August to October, Mr Hofmann played a key role in a number of Queensland literary events, including the Queensland Poetry Festival and the Brisbane Writers Festival, in addition to activities through Queensland Writers Centre in Cairns, Bundaberg and the Sunshine Coast.

Artists Minister Rod Waldorf said the Poet-in-Residence program benefited Queensland writers and poets by opening up new links and partnerships for them with the international literary community. “The Poet-in-Residence has become a celebrated feature on the Queensland Literary Calendar,” he said.

On top of this, the Queensland Poets Touring Program was a great success, taking Queensland poetry across Australia. Three touring poets read to over 300 people at eight reading events in Sydney, Melbourne and Launceston. Each poet sold out of the stock they took with them on tour and connections were made with editors and publishers.

The Hachette Australia Manuscript Development Program has also been a huge success. This three-year partnership initiative of Hachette Australia and Queensland Writers Centre is supported by Arts Queensland. The 2008 participants worked to develop high-quality manuscripts in consultation with Beladette Foley and Vanessa Raphael, publishers at Hachette Australia as well as experienced authors, literary agents and industry experts.

I would like to thank on behalf of QWC our major funding partner Arts Queensland, the Australia Council for the Arts and Copyright Agency Limited. I would also like to extend our appreciation for our regional partners including Tropical North Queensland TAFE Cairns, Arts Nexus, Townsville City Council, Bundaberg Writers Club, Rockhampton City Council, and Central Queensland University.

I would also like to extend a warm note of recognition to the Management Committee who volunteer their time to manage governance and strategy for QWC and to our CEO Kate Eltham, General Manager Beth Patley and the team of dedicated staff members. Their work ensures QWC are able to implement the vision of creating and supporting a strong Queensland writing sector and strong markets for Queensland writing. Through them, QWC provides specialised resources, information and professional development for Queensland writers.

With our strong financial position and team of dedicated professionals, QWC is planning for even greater achievements in 2009.

Theodora brings extensive experience in commercialisation, business and market strategy and international marketing to her role as Chair of QWC.

As a pivotal force behind the successful implementation of The Australian Writer’s Marketplace online, QWC and Theodora were awarded the KPMG Advocates Award in 2001, through the Australia Business Arts Foundation mentoring program.
## Financial statement

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2008 ($)</th>
<th>2007 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Recieivables</td>
<td>103,308</td>
<td>86,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepayments</td>
<td>44,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
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<td>Intangibles</td>
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<td>7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Non-Current Assets</td>
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<td>26,445</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>269,808</td>
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<td><strong>EQUITY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Retained Earnings</td>
<td>157,022</td>
<td>113,354</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>157,022</td>
<td>113,354</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE 2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EXPEDEUNT**

### Commercial Standards:

- Materiality: AASB 1031
- Accounting Policies: ASSB 110

**ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

- Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.
- Australian Auditing Standards have been applied.

**NOTE 4**

**REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special financial report of the Queensland Writers Centre Association Incorporated, which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2008, and the income statement, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by members of the committee.

**COMMITTEE’S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT**

The members of the committee are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of this financial report, are consistent with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee’s responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**AUDITOR’S RESPONSIBILITY**

Our audit was designed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and has applied the accounting policies and principles that are appropriate to the financial report.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

**NOTE 1**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld). The committee has determined that the significant accounting policies are not a reporting entity. The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

- AASB 1011: Materiality
- AASB 110: Events After Balance Sheet Date

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

### Other Income

- Grants & Subsidies | 20,007 | 14,294 |
- Total Other Income | 1,024,972 | 794,331 |