

**OUT OF THE ASYLUM WRITERS INC
2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
19 OCTOBER 2019**

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Good afternoon and welcome everyone.

On behalf of the OOTA membership, I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk Noongar people. I recognise their living culture, their continuing connection to land, waters and community; and pay our respects to their elders both past and present.

I would like to begin this afternoon by asking everyone here to remember Mary Jarzabkowski, a long time OOTA member. She passed away earlier this year, and her lively voice is already missed.

Overall, 2019 has been a successful year for OOTA.

Renee Petit Schipp has won the Premier's Award. She is currently shortlisted for the 2019 CHASS Australia Prize for a Student; We wish her luck.

OOTA writers have also been represented in journals and anthologies, competitions, literary awards, artistic projects and performances, the Perth Writers Festival and, at the Perth Poetry festival with readings, including Cornucopia. We are everywhere and can be proud of our members

There have also been poetry book launches from Shane McCauley. Roland Leach and Peter Burgess both have new books out, with a launch each yet to come.

Prose Class has been taken over successfully with Chris Conrad in full flight as tutor. **Last Prose class for 2019** is 30th November

Poetry Class with Shane McCauley has grown in popularity and lunch at the FAC Cafe is a welcome gathering for networking and catching up with writing friends and the meeting of new ones. **Last Poetry class for 2019 is on** 6th December:

Prose classes with sessional tutors will commence on February 8, 2018.

Poetry with Shane McCauley will **recommence** in January
Please check your Tuesday newsletter closer to the dates.

The OOTA Saturday afternoon workshops have been well attended by OOTA members and the writing community. We have had: Susan Midalia, Rosemary Stevens, Helen Hagemann and Andrew Levett. For 2020, we will be asking members what it is **they** want in afternoon workshops, so be ready for a survey.

In July we held a **Movie fund-raising night**. It was a fun night and we aim to make this an annual event. As always, we are open to suggestions for social fund-raising events. Please let us know if you have a fabulous idea.

OOTA's collaboration with **Westerly** continues with all financial members receiving the November issue. This copy of Westerly will be handed out at the Christmas party which will be held in the FAC on Dec 13, 1- 4pm. This exercise is now facilitated by Jan Napier – long-time committee member.

Instead of The Spilt Ink Competition, this year saw the compilation of Locus, an amazing anthology of member's work to do with place, which will be launched very soon. I promise. The editorial committee has worked hard to select material and an even tighter group has overseen the compilation of that material into a beautiful journal. Special thanks must go to Josephine Clarke, Richard Regan and Peter Burgess who put it all together after selections were made. We are aiming for the Christmas party as a launch date where participating authors will receive their copy on the day and the journal will also be on sale. I would like to thank OOTA members for supporting our fund-raising drive. Their efforts plus a generous donation from the Voicebox collective has raised enough to pay for the journal.

I would also like to thank Voicebox for their donation.

Next year will see the return of the Spilt Ink Competition.

WA Writers United The collaboration between the community centres continues with information, news, invitations shared between the communities with discounts to workshops applicable for members. This connection plays a valuable part in supporting the WA writing community.

I would like to thank the 2018-19 committee. They have been such an energetic and vibrant team and have been most supportive of the various initiatives carried out over the year. All the work has been done as a team.

2018-19 OOTA Committee has been:

Veronica Lake	Chair Person, Editorial Committee (Locus)
Rita Tognini	Secretary
Richard Regan	Membership, Editorial Committee (Locus)
Leanne Searle	Treasurer, Editorial Committee (Locus)
Marlish Glorie	Spilt Ink Coordinator/Mentor Program/Workshops/Fund-raising.
Jan Napier	Poetry Bites, Committee Member
Rose van Son	Committee Member – Editorial committee (Locus)
Julie Watts	Vice Chair Person, Tuesday Notes, Booking Rooms
Mike Greenacre	Committee Member
Jenny Jones	Committee Member

Retiring Members:

Marlish Glorie has retired from the OOTA Committee.

I would like to thank Marlish for her diligence in organising workshops and supporting the fundraising initiative of the two film nights.