

KSP Writers Centre Annual Report 2024

KSP Writers Centre has a vibrant community that has been built by passionate volunteers and a small, yet dedicated, team of employees. This year, the Board and our exceptional Executive Officer, Sofija Stevanovic, updated the strategic direction with the vision to **expand our community and celebrate the diversity of writers, styles and genres that meet at our centre.**

It is with great enthusiasm that I invite both our current members and newcomers to engage more deeply with our space. We want you to feel empowered to make it your own. Our goal is to create a hub for writers—a welcoming sanctuary where everyone feels comfortable to create and express themselves.

When I joined the Centre, I was looking for a novel writers' group. There weren't any in Perth so I approached the CEO with an idea. I was delighted when the Board approved my proposal to facilitate the Novel Writers Collective in 2021. Delighted, and slightly terrified, as it was all new to me and the response was overwhelming—50 plus people signed up to the introduction Zoom chat and we ended up with two groups, not the small one I'd envisioned. As a collective I imagined that together we would figure out how to run group as we went along, which, with generous co-facilitation from Soraya Acosta and Henry Plunkett, we did. I have learnt so much from the talented members of the collective and am forever grateful to KSP for the opportunity to find my tribe.

We're committed to fostering a dynamic and inclusive environment, and your ideas and energy are invaluable in shaping our future. Whether you're interested in poetry slams, day retreats, or mentoring opportunities, we're eager to hear your suggestions and for you to get involved.

Let's breathe new life into our centre, ensuring it remains a supportive space for all. Your contributions will help us grow and thrive as a community, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts and ideas with the team. Together, we can make our centre not just a place for writing, but a vibrant gathering space for creativity and collaboration.

Thank you for being part of this journey!



Kate Driver
KSP Chair



What we do:

Our commitment to serving a broad spectrum of writers, from budding to established, remains unwavering.

KSP Writers Centre:

- Offers writers a place to retreat and focus on their craft.
- Helps writers refine their skills through peer reviews and professional assessments.
- Creates avenues for writers to see their work flourish in print and digital platforms.
- Organises workshops and events, allowing writers to master their craft.
- Opens our heritage doors to all, ensuring the rich legacy of Katharine Susannah Prichard is preserved and celebrated.

Key Achievements 2024



Sincere thanks to Sofija and the team who have worked tirelessly to create a new residency program and maintain our beautiful centre.



KSP's cabins offer writers a dedicated space for thinking, planning and writing.

The services offered by KSP are possible due to our dedicated staff, volunteers and funding bodies, specifically the Shire of Mundaring.

Thank you for investing in Australia's writing community!

Caruso:

In 2025 KSP Writers' Centre looks forward to welcoming up to 20 emerging Australian writers from diverse and marginalised backgrounds to the Caruso residency program, thanks to Creative Australia.

Through ongoing collaborations with Writing WA and Dragonfly Publishing, and funding from Creative Australia, selected participants will enjoy paid residencies, mentoring and guidance from industry professionals, and a chance to have their work published as part of an anthology. We endeavour to utilise this program to uplift and amplify fresh voices in the literary world, celebrating storytelling, diversity, and the power of new perspectives.

Maintenance:

Sofija and the team have implemented recommendations from the Structural Report the Board commissioned in 2023. You will notice an improved veranda and stairway (fully compliant with new Australian Standards), opening the rear of the writing room for outdoor gatherings. Perfect for your next book launch! Accessible pathways throughout the grounds are planned as the next major maintenance priority.

Thank you to our community

Our team:

Sofija Stevanovic, Executive Officer, whose vision and dedication to the Centre is truly inspirational. Emma Hassner, Administrative and Retreats Officer, whose hard work and exceptional organisation skills help us extend our programs. Outgoing housekeeper Sristy Gurung and incoming Srijana Gurung for their outstanding work. Shannon Britza for all the advice and support. Steph Bedford our new youth tutor for her passion and imaginative ways to engage with the youngest members of our community.

Our volunteers:

Fern Pendragon for the time, effort and love she shows to the Centre year after year. Nathan Hobby for his passion for history and amazing advice with all heritage-related matters. Literary Committee for their dedication, flexibility and assistance. Spooky Stories Judge, Carolyn Wren and our short fiction and poetry judges (can't reveal names yet!). Thank you to our Writing Group Facilitators who volunteer to bring people together and continue to build KSPs community. Thanks to our Board Members, who dedicate time to overseeing governance and developing the strategic direction. And a huge shout out to Mardi May, who mentors us all.

Our Patron:

Glen Phillips whose commitment to the Centre is unwavering.

Thank you to our Donors and Partners:

The Shire of Mundaring, Creative Australia, Dragonfly Publishing, Little Black Dress Productions, and Writing WA. KSP enjoys collaborative projects with writing centres PCWC, FAWWA, WA Poets, and OOTA and The Emerging Writers Program. Westerly Magazine, Wooroloo Prison Farm, and Flora Smith (RIP) and her family who continue to support the Annette Cameron Award for an unpublished poet.

Extracts from WiR Reports:

Michelle Johnston, Emerging Writer-in-Residence, February 2024:

'I gained an enormous amount from the residency and was surprised that I could write so much in this space of time, all testament to the facilities and atmosphere. I have lived these three weeks as a writer. If nothing else, it has confirmed within me this identity. I will carry this forth, return to life a little changed. I am a writer. Being awarded a writer in residence is also a significant achievement to grace a CV, something not to be sneezed at in this current climate of the publishing world. My deepest thanks, once again, to all at KSP.'

Arianne James, Upcoming Writer-in-Residence, May 2024:

'From the moment I arrived at KSP I felt welcomed and at ease. The cosy cabin could not have been more comfortable and had everything a writer needs to be their most productive self. There is definitely something magical about inhabiting a space where so many writers have come before. Their creative energy must soak into the ground and provide ample inspiration and a motivating atmosphere. It's a thrill to join the KSP alumni community, and my experience as an upcoming fellow was enormously validating confirming once again that writing is how I want to spend my "one wild and precious life," as Mary Oliver would say.'

Jessica Wilkinson, Established Writer-in-Residence, June 2024

'The Residency renewed my belief in residencies! (I had done an overseas residency a while ago at which I felt the hosts did not care so much about making residents comfortable). But KSP was the total opposite – cosy, comfortable, conducive to writing and thinking in peace but with plenty of opportunity to connect with other residents and local writers through writers' groups, all of which gave me so much food for thought. I would absolutely love the chance to come back in future!'

Zach Inglis, Upcoming Writer-in-Residence, July 2024

'It was a wonderful and vital time at Katharine Susannah Prichard's Writers' Centre. To be there is to feel you are doing exactly what you should be doing: the important work you care about. KSP's Writer-in-Residency program validated me as a creative person. It said for two weeks, "what you do is valuable". That support from an external source can be limited in a world where, to quote America's Local Band, Cheekface, "being unique does not fit neatly into the grid of corporate needs".'

Zoe Deleuil, Invited Writer-in-Residence, August 2024

'Having focused time to tune in to my work in progress, aware from the daily pressures of life in a busy house with two children and my elderly parents to care for, was a real gift. The progress I made in those two weeks would have taken me at least three months in the real world. I felt very lucky to be invited to stay and to be given this opportunity by KSP. It gave me a sense of my work being valued and of being part of a community of writers. The centre is so well run and lively, but there is also a real sense of calm and seclusion in the self-contained cabins.'

Extracts from Fellowship Reports:

Coleen Smith:

'The KSP facilities, providing a distraction-free cocoon to let me focus exclusively on my manuscript, were wonderful. The cabins have pretty much everything you need to focus on writing up a storm. I can't recommend the KSPWC and their staff more highly. They were welcoming but not in the least intrusive. But, if anyone wants more company, there are always the writing groups that are regular events in the evenings at the main house.'

Karen Ginnane:

'My time at KSP was pivotal to both my future writing and this current WIP. It allowed me to both progress and deepen my creative practice. I made some new writerly connections and friendships and reconnected with others. The two weeks was an intense, challenging and also blissful time. There were highs and lows, of smooth sailing 'in the zone' and of asking tough questions of my creative self. It was not always easy, but it was deeply rewarding and ultimately very productive.'

Katharine Pollock:

'I hugely surpassed my goals in my two weeks at KSP. It was a prolific and productive time surrounded by nature and other creative people. The time and space the fellowship provided were instrumental in helping me fully immerse myself in my writing. As I have multiple day jobs and responsibilities that necessarily take me away from my writing, I would relish the opportunity to undertake a KSP fellowship again to complete any future writing projects. Thank you to KSP for this generous gift of time and space. I left my fellowship feeling motivated and validated!'

Lisa Rodrigues:

'The fellowship allowed me time to focus, not only at the centre, but in preparation for my stay. It was an acknowledgment of the work I've put in over the past few years. It gave me permission to prioritise writing, which is invaluable.'

Michelle Stephens:

'The assistance of KSPWC was brilliant! The whole process from the initial offer of a fellowship to the signing of a contract, the ongoing communication and the accommodation, was better than I could have hoped for. I was well informed on what to expect on arrival, as well as on the expectations that would be placed on me. The entire process was seamless. Thank you for gifting me this wonderful opportunity. I will always remember my time at KSP with great gratitude and hope to be back again one day soon.'

Anna Fursland:

'The cabins at KSP provide the most comfortable and nurturing environments for writers that I can imagine. The instructions are clear (about what to bring, what's provided) and the well-appointed rooms are a writer's delight, with an enormous desk and a view of nature to take one's mind off the work or to inspire, whichever is most needed. Unencumbered by responsibilities, appointments, obligations and loved ones who wanted my attention and with whom I wished to spend time, I was free to do all things writing. All day. Uninterrupted.'