

The Eleanor Dark Foundation

Annual Report 2021



VARUNA
The National Writers' House

BLUE
MOUNTAINS
WRITERS'
FESTIVAL



Varuna The National Writers' House

Annual Report 2021

Message from the Chair



As I write this message, this is my last month acting as Chair of The Eleanor Dark Foundation, overseeing both Varuna the National Writers' House and the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival.

It has been an honour to act in this role for the past three years, and to see how our organisation has not only met the many challenges of this period, but has flourished and grown.

At Varuna, we are about telling everybody's stories. We know that Australian literature is central to how we perceive ourselves, and how we want the wider world to perceive us. Supporting writers of diversity is therefore key to what we do.

In 2021, aided by stimulus funding from the NSW government, Varuna launched a new suite of programs under the name *The Writer's Space*, supporting writers with disability. Our programs included 12 two-week fellowships, a young writers' online workshop, two six-week community programs, disability awareness training for publishers and writing for wellbeing workshops. The demand for these programs was significant, demonstrating the need among writers for specific programs such as these.

We have become much more than an artist residency offering writers time and space to write; we are now a multi-faceted centre for writers' professional development, serving writers across Australia in a range of capacities

The ability for us to both create and adapt programs quickly became an imperative when the second extended lockdown forced us to close the house once more. We continued to offer intensive two-week online residencies, using the format established in 2020, and over 50 writers participated in these programs.

Inspired, we decided to take this model one step further, launching a series of ten-week online masterclasses. Facilitated by teachers who were also published authors in their own right, the response to these programs was terrific.

During the five months of lockdown, these online programs sustained alumni and other writers across the nation, with several works from participants already acquired by agents and publishers. Indeed, both the online residencies and online masterclasses were so successful, we are continuing to run them even after the house has re-opened.

These online programs mark a significant change in Varuna the National Writers' House. We have become much more than an artist residency offering writers time and space to write; we are now a multi-faceted centre for professional development, serving writers across Australia in a range of capacities.

These wonderful programs, and indeed Varuna itself, could not flourish without our amazing staff and volunteers. My sincere thanks for all their hard work and dedication.

Finally, I'd like to express my thanks on behalf of our Board to our core funding bodies, Create NSW and the Australia Council, for their continued funding and support. Assisted by their funding and practical advice, I'm proud to say that we're heading into 2022 with a stronger foundation and more diverse program than ever before.

Jennifer Scott, Chair

Message from the Executive Team



When Mick Dark inherited his childhood home after the death of his parents – the home that has since become known as Varuna the National Writers' House – he knew he didn't want to live there again. He had loved this home, but knew that the house and gardens were a huge job to maintain, especially in the way that his parents had managed to do. He also didn't want to see the property sold and subdivided.

After some deliberation, Mick called a public meeting asking the community for ideas regarding how Varuna might be used to benefit others. When a residential writers' centre was suggested, the idea immediately resonated with Mick, who knew how his mother, Eleanor Dark, had always struggled to find the space and time to write. So it was that in the late 1980s, Mick gifted his family home and its extensive gardens to the writers of Australia.

Mick Dark was not a wealthy man, and the gift of this home represented a foundational act of generosity.

This spirit of generosity imbues everything that Varuna does. Last year, for example, over 120 individuals donated to our Equity Access crowdfunding campaign, enabling writers experiencing financial hardship to still participate in our programs. A First Nations mentor insisted that instead of paying him, we would waive program fees for participating writers. Another writer approached us, offering to pay for a two-week fellowship for a writer with disability.

This sharing also happens on a daily basis with the writers in residence. We see how writers come together before dinner to read each other's work, offering feedback and encouragement to one another. An established writer might introduce an emerging writer to their agent, offer tips on publishing, or simply take the time to listen.

All these acts of generosity – both large and small – serve to support a thriving culture of Australian literature, literature that provides connections, tells our stories, creates and documents our history, and enriches our lives immeasurably.

All these acts of generosity – both large and small – serve to support a thriving culture of Australian literature, literature that provides connections, tells our stories, creates and documents our history, and enriches our lives immeasurably. We remain grateful not only to Mick, but to the web of individuals, writers, philanthropists and funding bodies who allow this spirit of generosity to thrive.

Veechi Stuart, Executive Director

Amy Sambrooke, Creative Director

Our Vision, Pillars, Goals and Values

Developing Artistic Excellence

Reflecting Diversity

Nurturing First Nations Writing

Creating a Literary Community

Storytelling Beyond the Page

Building Sustainability

VARUNA

Our values:

Writing and Creativity

Rigour and Commitment

Respect and Inclusivity

Heritage and Place

Our vision:

Varuna inspires the creation of Australian writing that enriches and shapes our culture and that is celebrated nationally and internationally.

We support the development of excellence, innovation and diversity in new work.

Goal 1: Developing Artistic Excellence

To provide world-class professional development and career opportunities for Australian writers.

In 2021, Varuna:

- ➔ Provided 131 writers with 181 weeks as an artist-in-residence at Varuna, despite the impact of travel restrictions and border closures during the year.
- ➔ Provided online residencies to 33 writers who were unable to attend in-person programs due to Covid lockdowns or other circumstances. These residencies included a package of one-on-one consultations, shared reading sessions, Q&A sessions and daily writing intensives.
- ➔ Provided 55 writers with online courses facilitated by award-winning Australian authors, including *Reading to Write* with Tegan Bennett Daylight, *The Craft of Poetry* with Felicity Plunkett, *Shaping Your Narrative* with Roanna Gonsalves, *First Nations Writing* with Ellen van Neerven, *Exploring Creative Non-fiction* with Patti Miller and *Queer Backyards* with George Haddad. These courses are part of The Writer's Process online series that have become a core part of Varuna's program.
- ➔ Received and professionally assessed over 1,000 applications across 19 different programs.
- ➔ Received a record number of 441 applications for the annual Varuna Residential Fellowships, and awarded 29 fellowships to be taken in 2022.
- ➔ Provided Alumni members with free 'Shut Up and Write' sessions every day from Monday to Friday from January to December.
- ➔ Coordinated 255 writing consultations, matching writers with expert consultants and mentors.
- ➔ Relunched our publishing pathways program, with two dedicated publishing programs (Affirm Press, Scribe Publications) and Pitch Me!, a new program in partnership with Ultimo Press and Leftbank Literary.
- ➔ Continued our work partnering with state-based writers centres, including New England Writers' Centre, Writing NSW, NT Writers' Centre and Writing SA, with a new partnership initiated with Writing Queensland.
- ➔ Despite lockdown, we continued the expansion of our international program. We held an online residency in partnership with the Michael King Writers' Centre in Auckland, and confirmed a new international exchange partnership for a four-week residency. This program includes a partnership with Verb Wellington for the Australian exchange writer to present at their festival.
- ➔ Presented at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (USA) virtual international conference in March 2021.

Dear Varuna, Again I am indebted for the quiet calm and peaceful atmosphere you provide. For the generosity of my fellow writers and the encouragement of staff. Thank you for the magic of Varuna, a little still stays on my shoulders as I head for home.

Lynette Ainsworth (Visitor's Book)

CASE STUDIES

Dirt Town



Due to hit the shelves of bookshops in 2022, **Hayley Scrivenor's** debut novel *Dirt Town* was acquired by Pan Macmillan Australia in 2021. It will be published by Pan Macmillan in the UK and by Fatiron Books in the US under the title *Dirt Creek*. Varuna awarded Hayley a Young Writer's Fellowship in 2019, and has welcomed Hayley to be a writer in residence several times since.

I was in a cafe when I first got the email that my application for the Varuna Ray Koppe ASA Young Writer's Fellowship had been successful. I promptly burst into tears. The news came at a time when I was despairing of ever finishing my manuscript: I cried because with that email, I knew that my work had been read, that people had seen something in it: I had a reason to keep going. For a moment, I wondered if someone had slipped something into my soy latte and I might, actually, be hallucinating.

The benefits of time at Varuna are well-established, and I'm sure other writers have articulated the effect of quiet, and a comfortable bed and Sheila's cooking (!) better than I can. The particular impact on my project, though, was like a quickening. I entered the version of the manuscript I worked on while at Varuna into the Kill Your Darlings Unpublished Manuscript Award, a prize which I would eventually win. Through that process, I signed with my literary agent, Grace Heifetz, and as of this Monday just gone, my book has been sent to a number of publishers. I can't envision quite how the process would have gone if I didn't get this encouragement and meaningful support at such a vital time. I want to thank Varuna and the Ray Koppe family for their support of young writers: I am confident that it has made a material difference not just to my writing practice, but to my life. Hayley Scrivenor

The Shape of Sound



Serendipitously, by the time Varuna learned of the success of this funding application, Fiona had relocated from country NSW to become a Blue Mountains local. She had experience delivering writing workshops for writers with disability, and was the ideal choice to facilitate community groups for writers with disability.

In March 2021, Text Publishing released *The Shape of Sound*, a memoir in which Fiona talks about the corrosive power of secrets, stigma and shame. This memoir was very well received, with Fiona presenting at several events and writers festivals.

Later in 2021, Fiona Murphy was selected by an independent panel of assessors (who were also writers with disability) to be awarded one of the 12 inaugural The Writer's Space Fellowships. The Fellowship bestowed two weeks of space and time for Fiona to start work on her next writing project.

Varuna's programs are designed to offer writers professional pathways, not just as writers, but as facilitators, assessors and presenters. **Fiona Murphy**, deaf poet and essayist, is an example of a writer who has worked with Varuna in many capacities.

Fiona first came to Varuna on a Griffith Review Fellowship 2019. At that time, she generously gave her advice and provided a vital letter of support to aid a funding application for Varuna's disability programs.

Goal 2: Reflecting Diversity

To reflect the diverse creative ecology of all Australian writers, making our residencies and services accessible to all

In 2021, Varuna supported diverse writing in the following ways:

- Launched *The Writer's Space*, a new suite of programs for writers with disability. (See next page for more details.)
- Received 247 applications from culturally diverse writers, and provided 43 in-person and 24 online residencies to culturally diverse writers.
- Launched a new Equity Access Fund to support applications, residencies and consultations for writers experiencing financial hardship. Over \$7,000 was raised in a crowdfunding campaign, with writers benefitting from this fund in the latter half of 2021.
- Finalised our first Disability Inclusion Access Plan (DIAP) and continued working with the Disability Reference Group to receive guidance across disability programming and policy.
- Commissioned an accessibility audit of the Varuna website and created an FAQ document addressing questions prospective applicants or residents may have.
- Provided 28 in-person and 18 online residencies to writers with disability, a substantial increase from a total of 11 writers the previous year.
- Continued to support writers from regional Australia, including partnering with Arts NT to provide three in-person residencies and six online residencies for writers from remote Australia.
- Held a week-long residency workshop for 8 participants in *The Next Chapter*, a program run by The Wheeler Centre for diverse emerging writers.
- Worked with Affirm Press to develop a week-long publishing pathway program for 'own voice' writers.



Launching The Writer's Space Program



In early 2021, Varuna was selected by Create NSW to receive \$100,000 in stimulus payment as part of the Arts Restart support scheme. Through this program, Varuna established The Writer's Space – a program dedicated to creating opportunities for writers living with disability in NSW. As part of this program, the following programs were created and launched:

- **The Writer's Space Fellowships:** Partnering with Accessible Arts, this program offered 12 two-week fellowships for writers with disability or who are D/deaf.
- **The Writer's Space Writing Group:** These community writing workshops offered two groups of 12 writers a six-week program, and was facilitated by Deaf writer Fiona Murphy.
- **The Writer's Space Young Writers' Studio:** This program offered 16 to 25-year-old writers living with disability an opportunity to explore creative writing in a four-week series of online workshops.
- **The Writer's Space Writing for Mental Health:** Partnering with Blue Fringe, Varuna delivered two half-day workshops aimed at supporting mental health and wellbeing for young people and adults.
- **The Writer's Space Publishability:** Varuna partnered with Writers Victoria to deliver two half-day specialised disability equality training sessions for editors and publishers, to help them engage confidently writers with disability or who are d/Deaf and create an inclusive publishing environment.
- **The Writer's Space Supported Residencies:** This program offered two Varuna Alumni living with high-needs disability a supported residency.

Here is what one participant (from Writer's Space Fellowship) said of the experience:

I love the 'safe space'. I did not have to explain why I am different. For a sector of the writing community that is so often overlooked, I really commend Varuna for taking up this challenge and presenting us with a really wonderful program. Thank you!

As a cherry on the top, two participants secured publishing deals during their fellowship period.

I'm really glad to tell you that I've just signed a book contract with Terri-Ann White at Upswell Publishing. Incredibly she picked it up within a few days – I was starting to lose a bit of hope – doing the Writers' Space Fellowship definitely helped boost my confidence and motivated me!" Kath Kenny

Goal 3: Nurturing First Nations Writing

To nurture First Nations writers and writing, building recognition for the writers whose work is developed through our First Nations fellowship programs. To work with our Darug and Gundungurra community to support their initiatives developing First Nations culture.

In 2021, Varuna:

- Revised our selection process for the First Nations program, working with both Australian and overseas (Ontario) manuscript assessors.
- Received 76 program applications from First Nations writers, an increase of 40 per cent from the previous year.
- Working with Indigenous advisers, designed and built a bush tucker garden in the grounds of Varuna. (An integrated accessible seating area will be completed in 2022.)
- Launched a 10-week First Nations online masterclass as part of our The Writer's Process program, facilitated by Ellen van Neerven. We received a high number of competitive applications and were able to offer this program in two iterations, with 6 writers in each group.
- A week-long residential masterclass, 'Writing with Country', facilitated by award-winning First Nations writer, Tony Birch, was developed and promoted. This was scheduled for 2021 but was postponed until 2022 due to the pandemic.
- After consultation with both Darug and Gundungurra elders, the new accessible studio was named 'The Jerra Studio'. 'Jerra' means 'star' or 'stars' in Gundungurra language.
- Launched a new residency program for First Nations alumni to have a dedicated First Nations writing week at Varuna, with financial subsidies offered.
- Mentored an emerging writer to document the story of her grandmother, a Darug Elder, and her life in the Gully, Katoomba. Staff members also attended Landcare at the Gully.
- Established a Reconciliation Action Plan working group and submitted Varuna's draft RAP to Reconciliation Australia for final approval.
- Consulted with community to update Varuna's Acknowledgement of Country.
- Secured Copyright Agency funding for 2022 and 2023 to support additional First Nations programs.



It has been a humbling honour to be present in a space where Eleanor walked, loved and wrote. My soul needed to be here, the calling has travelled alongside me, to leave in the past the turmoil and disbelief. The beauty of the trees, the grounds and all parts of this nature cycle has revived my spirit in the belief that I am meant to write. Thank you sincerely Mick Dark for carrying on your mother's legacy of keeping the magic alive in this place, for your Mum and Dad, for you and for all of us long after.

Yvonne Weldon, Wiradjuri. 12 Jan 2021

Goal 4: Creating a Literary Community

To be the centre of a vibrant community of writers and readers

In 2021, Varuna:

- Provided daily 'Shut Up and Write' sessions free to Varuna alumni on week days throughout the year. These sessions attracted up to 30 writers per day, providing a much-valued sense of connection.
- Presented The Mick Dark Talk for the Future, held in partnership with The Blue Mountains Conservation Society. This event featured Tim Flannery, Ketan Joshi (who joined via Zoom from Norway), Rebecca Huntley, and was facilitated by Varuna Board member, Bianca Nogrady.
- Consolidated key partnerships crucial to the ongoing survival of the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival (which ultimately was cancelled due to Covid). These included our media partnership with ABC Radio Sydney, and program partnerships with Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Blue Mountains Library, Blue Mountains Historical Society, The Food Co-op, Gleebooks, Megalong Books and Children's Book Council of Australia.
- Facilitated three community writing workshops in regional NSW. The first focussed on writing history with Rebecca Wilson in Lithgow; the second was about short story writing, and was facilitated by Isabelle Li in Lithgow; and the third was a poetry workshop, held twice in Bathurst, and was facilitated by Mark O'Flynn.
- Facilitated a two-week online writer development program for 12 writers from Western Sydney. This was a spontaneous, responsive program for Western Sydney writers who had missed out on Varuna Residential Fellowships but whose work had strong potential. Writers received daily writing prompts and readings, reading sessions to share work, Q&A sessions with established writers, a mentoring session with Carol Major, and a care pack from Varuna.
- Worked in partnership with Blue Mountains City Council to collect 100 submissions from local residents about the year 2020, displaying responses to the bushfires, floods and COVID-19 in a digital exhibition.
- Acted as a judge for Artistic Excellence prize offered by the What Matters? program with the Whitlam Institute, offering the winner of this category a mentoring session.
- Continued our volunteer program, adapting our programs during lockdown to work with volunteers on heritage projects, garden maintenance and photo library management.



Just a quick email to say that we kept going right through Christmas and New Year with 'Shut up and Write'. I had a very huge contracted book (130,000 words) to write for Routledge and hadn't been able to get started as it seemed too daunting. I have found this chipping away. approach very helpful. I have now written 18,000 words which I am very happy about. Katie Lavers

From the Visitors' Book 2021

The experience of Varuna was absolutely incredible! Spending time with fellow writers, in the shadow of history of other writers...magical! I'll take away this experience and cherish it.

Blake Curran, Nov 2021

A place to get in touch with an inner self,
A place to remember,
A place to cherish.
When was the last time I could hear
my own thoughts?

22-28th Nov. 2021
Kennedy Estephan

A transformative week,
thank you. I am
so grateful for the gift
of time, the physical
space and the generosity
of those who shared
this week with me.
Everything again feels possible.

~ Megan McGrath
22/3/21

*After three weeks at Varuna,
I feel like I've lived here all my
life - this time has completely
changed the course of my
writing. It's been such an
incredible privilege to have the
time, and the beautiful space,
to work and think in...I'll always
remember this as the time I
first felt like a book was really
possible. Thank you.*

Julieta Caldas



May 30, 2021

It feels like I've been here for
about 2 months - I can barely
remember the world outside Varuna,
and I don't want to go back. This has
been one of the most enriching, transformative,
joyous periods of my entire life. It's not
just the uninterrupted writing time (though
there's been plenty of that!), it's the feeling
of truly being a part of the writing fraternity.
Writing is so often a solitary exercise,
and it's been such a joy to live and
breathe it with such kind, clever, brilliant
people for the last 2 weeks. I'm so
thankful to have been introduced to
this beautiful place, and I cannot wait
to come back.

James McKenzie Watson

Thank you to the wonderful team at Varuna
& Affirm Press that made this stay possible.

What a week! The beautiful creaks of
the house, the surroundings, the writing,
zombie spiders, the fires & of course
the incredible Sheila!

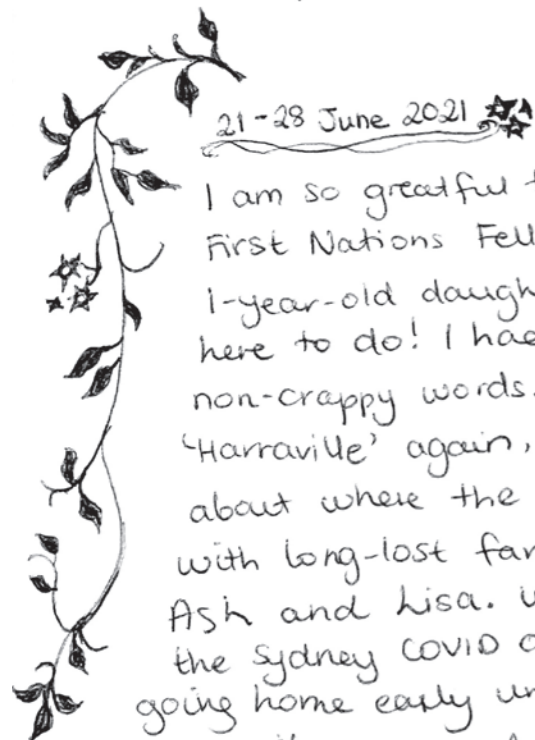
Massive thanks to the talented two
Emma's for sharing this experience &
Meg & Coral for supporting our
stories & dreams of writing.

It has truly lit the spark!

Cheers,
Kate Maxwell. 18/4/21.

It's difficult to overstate the effect Varuna has had on my life. Most of my dearest writing friends are people I've met through Varuna and the writing time has proved invaluable. In addition, being awarded a fellowship has been a highlight in my writing career to date. Writing is such a solitary career and the external rewards are few and far between, so knowing that Varuna readers saw value in my work was enormously important and sustained me through long periods between publications.

Amanda Webster, Aug 2021



21-28 June 2021

I am so grateful to have been invited to come along to the
First Nations Fellowship in 2021. While I sorely missed my
1-year-old daughter, I was able to achieve what I came
here to do! I had a plot epiphany, followed by 10k of
non-crappy words. Hooray! It's funny that I am working on
'Harraville' again, but this time I am a lot more confident
about where the story is going. It was great to meet up
with long-lost family - Ronnie - and get to know Brenda,
Ash and Lisa. What a strange week in some ways with
the Sydney COVID outbreak, with us writers 'dropping like flies' -
going home early until there were only 2 of us left in the
house. Very surreal! I can't wait to return again one day. :)

~ Jannali Jones

Goal 5: Storytelling Beyond the Page

To respond to changes in technology and the literary landscape with contemporary and innovative practices.

In 2021, Varuna:

- ➔ Launched the highly-successful *The Writer's Process Online Masterclasses*, starting with six ten-week online masterclasses: *Reading to Write* with Tegan Bennett Daylight, *The Craft of Poetry* with Felicity Plunkett, *Shaping Your Narrative* with Roanna Gonsalves, *Queer Backyards* with George Haddad, *First Nations Writing* with Ellen van Neerven, and *Exploring Creative Non-fiction* with Patti Miller. Due to the significant number of highly competitive applications received, some courses were offered in two iterations.
- ➔ For the first time, offered livestream tickets as well as in-person tickets to one of our events (the Mick Dark Talk for the Future). This was well received, with over 100 livestream tickets sold. The event involved a tricky and highly technical setup with the combination of livestreaming plus Ketan Joshi joining remotely via Zoom, from Norway no less! This was valuable experience helping us to prepare for the technical requirements of our Festival.
- ➔ Released a video to celebrate Varuna's 30th birthday, which was collated from alumni reflecting on what Varuna means to them. <https://www.varuna.com.au/programs/varunabirthday>
- ➔ Developed a series of on-demand courses with video and worksheets, with videography completed in 2021. These videos will be released in 2022, and writers will participate in these self-paced courses at a time and in a way that suits them. Some of the stimulus project funding received from Create NSW in early 2021 was used towards the development of this project.
- ➔ Continued our daily online writing sessions every weekday throughout the year, hosted by alumni members.
- ➔ Pivoted to host our New Zealand (Aotearoa) exchange program online. Partnering with Michael King Writers' Centre, this program included three Australian and three New Zealand writers. Guest presenters and consultants included Toby Fitch, Selina Tusitala Marsh and Felicity Plunkett.



I want to say thank you so much for the online masterclass with Tegan Bennett Daylight. I got so much out of it. Tegan is a great teacher and it was such a great group. Living in a regional area, it's been so useful to connect with writers in different parts of the country. Sally Bothroyd.

I really loved the opportunity to ask professional writers about the mechanics and logistics of writing a book, as well as their writing process and other general themes. It was wonderful sharing work with other writers and reading their different styles, and hearing their feedback for me. Survey response from NZ online residency program.

Goal 6: Building Sustainability

To become a cultural leader as an environmentally responsible, sustainable arts organisation with excellent financial management.

In 2021, Varuna:

- ➔ Received and administered a \$75,000 stimulus funding package from Create NSW, as well as a \$100,000 NSW Arts Restart grant for disability programs.
- ➔ Further expanded our online masterclass program, providing a source of income diversity and broadening Varuna's potential reach to international as well as national participants, facilitators and guest writers.
- ➔ Established a last-minute cancellation list to create a buffer for Covid-related cancellations.
- ➔ Agreed with Blue Mountains City Council to establish a quarterly bushcare group, addressing persistent weeds in the outer perimeter of the property, and purchased bushcare tools using a community volunteers grant from our local MP.
- ➔ Secured program funding from the Copyright Agency to support our residential and online First Nations programs and masterclasses in 2022.
- ➔ Established a database system using Active Campaign, and undertook a large project to document residency and fellowship data dating back to when Varuna first opened.
- ➔ Reviewed booking and application systems, integrating the new database with other software to streamline processes and save in staff time.
- ➔ Undertook essential maintenance tasks on the house, including painting the eastern and western faces of the house, retiling the downstairs toilet, replacing piping and fixtures, replacing a timber window, and establishing an accessible garden for residents.
- ➔ Conducted a review of all staff roles, restructuring positions to consolidate the number of staff and adapt position descriptions to reflect changing technology and the increase in online programs.



What a privilege to be among the first group at Varuna since closures due to lockdown. This time has been a real boost to my inspiration, motivation and confidence. I am so truly grateful. You do such amazing work here.

Henry Chase Richards – Nov 2021

The Varuna Way

Each of our four core values is demonstrated by a set of behaviours that bring the Varuna culture to life.

Our values	Our behaviours
Writing and creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → We provide developmental opportunities to authors from across the nation and at all stages of their careers → We always prioritise the creative process for writers in residence → We broaden our reach by working in partnership with other leading organisations
Rigour and commitment to the writing craft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → We continually review the selection process to ensure the highest standards, including regular rotation of all assessors → We look outside of our organisation to establish best practice → We award residencies and fellowships on a competitive basis
Respect and inclusiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → We proactively seek diversity at all levels within our organisation → We treat all stakeholders with empathy and respect → We are actively involved in our Blue Mountains community
Heritage and place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → We formally acknowledge the Dark's legacy at public occasions → We consider carefully the heritage implications of any building alterations or improvements → We continually innovate and seek ways to further promote the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers



Summarised Financial Statements

The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	4	695,869	652,217
Other income	4	63,157	150,352
Total revenue		759,026	802,569
Expenses			
Administration		(80,797)	(54,472)
Depreciation		(12,678)	(16,032)
Employee benefits		(371,501)	(257,815)
Facility expenses		(88,899)	(102,313)
Program and fellowship expenses		(222,546)	(144,009)
Total expenses		(776,421)	(574,641)
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(17,395)	227,928
Income tax expense		-	-
(Deficit)/surplus after income tax		(17,395)	227,928
Other comprehensive income:			
Revaluation of land and buildings		-	171,088
Total comprehensive (loss)/income		(17,395)	399,016

The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	641,019	574,026
Trade and other receivables	6	5,053	29,392
Other assets	7	13,049	4,680
Current assets		659,121	608,098
Non-current			
Property, plant and equipment	8	1,942,743	1,937,576
Non-current assets		1,942,743	1,937,576
Total assets		2,601,864	2,545,674
Liabilities			
Current			
Trade and other payables	9	36,182	31,772
Provisions	10	57,655	39,665
Other liabilities	11	308,347	265,444
Current liabilities		402,184	336,881
Non-current			
Provisions	10	8,282	-
Non-current liabilities		8,282	-
Total liabilities		410,466	336,881
Net assets		2,191,398	2,208,793
Equity			
Reserves		1,433,728	1,433,728
Retained earnings		757,670	775,065
Total equity		2,191,398	2,208,793

The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Accumulated Funds \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Building and Maintenance Reserve \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2020		547,137	1,217,640	45,000	1,809,777
Surplus for the year		227,928	-	-	227,928
Other comprehensive income:					
Revaluation of land and buildings		-	171,088	-	171,088
Total comprehensive income		227,928	171,088	-	399,016
Balance at 31 December 2020		775,065	1,388,728	45,000	2,208,793
Balance at 1 January 2021		775,065	1,388,728	45,000	2,208,793
Deficit for the year		(17,395)	-	-	(17,395)
Other comprehensive income					
Total comprehensive loss		(17,395)	-	-	(17,395)
Balance at 31 December 2021		757,670	1,388,728	45,000	2,191,398

The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from appropriations/grants		570,212	496,901
Receipts from customers		241,423	197,216
Receipts from government stimulus		72,761	134,512
Receipts from donors and fundraising		7,240	29,396
Receipts from sponsors		2,080	1,585
Payments to suppliers and employees		(810,404)	(596,991)
Interest received		1,527	3,024
Net cash provided by operating activities		84,839	265,643
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(17,845)	(217,103)
Net cash used in investing activities		(17,845)	(217,103)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	-
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		66,993	48,540
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	5	574,026	525,486
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5	641,019	574,026

Our Sponsors and Funders

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Writers at Katoomba Falls Lookout, March 2021

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