

The Story Island Project

Annual Report 2018–19



Building confident, creative communities through story

I look forward to Story Island Project because we can draw and we learn in a fun way. Because it is so fun to learn in a fun way... – student, Moonah Primary School

...all students were able to be involved regardless of ability – it was differentiated to their standard. – teacher, Bowen Road Primary School

Story Island helped me with using my imagination and thinking outside the box. I have learnt to put my imagination to good use in stories and all things alike. – student, Bowen Road Primary School

[Students'] confidence and self-esteem have improved remarkably. – volunteer tutor

I [look forward to Story Island] because I can write amazing stories and let my imagination go wild. – student, Bowen Road Primary School

The other people in Story Island help you to come up with ideas if you can't think of anything... my helper helped me understand. – student, Moonah Primary School

"I think this is the first time I've actually put effort into writing a story," one student said to me at the end of the lesson. – volunteer tutor

I felt more confident with my writing when Story Island came because they made me more creative. – student, Bowen Road Primary School

Our Mission

The Story Island Project is a not-for-profit organisation that nurtures the creativity and writing skills of young Tasmanians and celebrates their diverse voices. With the support of our enthusiastic volunteer tutors we run dynamic storytelling workshops where children and teenagers are empowered to create their own stories.

Our focus is on communities that are often overlooked, where people may experience poverty and disadvantage or are marginalised in other ways.

Our vision is for children and teenagers to harness the power of their imaginations so they can grow to be resilient and creative shapers of their own lives.

Tasmania has many strengths but there are big barriers to overcome: nearly half of Tasmania's adults do not have the basic skills to understand and use information from newspapers, magazines, books and brochures. Tasmania has the lowest levels of educational retention, completion and attainment in the country. And every morning, around 16,000 Tasmanian children wake up to a life of poverty.

We want to change this picture so that young Tasmanians have the creative confidence and writing skills to participate in a good life.

We do this by offering free workshops where students get individualised support from our expert storytellers and volunteer tutors.

Board members 2018–19

Office Bearers

President Lynne Hanlon

Senior Vice President Melinda Maddock

Vice-President/Secretary Louise Mills

Treasurer Heather Chong

Public Officer Kate Gross

General members

Emily Bullock

Frances Butler

Finegan Kruckemeyer (to March 2019)

Andy Vagg

Story Island Project details

The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Incorporated

Mailing address: 41 Leonard Avenue Moonah TAS 7009

Phone: 0405 177 057 (Emily Bullock) 0409 856 979 (Kate Gross)

ABN: 81 478 918 677

TFN: 988 827 366

Incorporation number: IA11920

Bank details: BSB: 632 001 Account number: 100 190 200

President's Report: The plot thickens!

2019 was a great year for the Story Island Project!

In our early chapters, we delivered shorter programs as we were learning what was needed in various settings and what we could provide to help.

Last year, the focus was on running longer programs in different places and recruiting a healthy number of volunteers to assist. This was crucial to our development, as there are two features which set Story Island apart from other writing ventures. One is that we incorporate the use of local artists to stimulate the creativity of the children we work with. The other feature is the fantastic effort from our volunteers, which helps us fulfil our aim of having 1 adult to work with 2 students in the classroom – it is this that can make such a difference to the students' confidence and capacity to write.

Thus, in 2019 the Story Island Project developed further into a vibrant entity whose committed and passionate staff and volunteers worked in many schools.

A large part of the success so far has been due to the optimism, commitment and sheer hard work of our founders Emily Bullock and Kate Gross, the leading characters in our story. Without their vision, conviction and dedication, the Story Island Project would not exist.

Thank you, too, to our wonderful volunteers, who are vital to the whole Project – it would not be worth doing without your commitment, enthusiasm and energy! You are the backbone of our 'workforce', important characters in our story. Indeed, the strength of Story Island is the quality of the programs and of the volunteers.

The Project is supported by a Board with a diverse skills base; Board members are committed to ensuring that the Board has the skills needed to govern the Project well and to ensuring that the Board is appropriate to contemporary needs. A subplot in 2019 was ensuring that we established robust financial systems which can support the growth and development of the Project into the future – a huge thank you to Heather Chong for this. I sincerely thank all my fellow Board members who volunteer their time and experience – you all bring unique and valuable skills to the table in your contributions.

Next financial year (which is now a calendar year for us), we will be developing our new Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on fundraising, which should be a little easier now that we have DGR status, so that donations are tax deductible. Gaining this status was not an easy challenge, and I thank Kate Gross, Heather Chong, Susan Bartie (former Board member) and Joss Fenton (of 4 Business and Community) for their persistence and attention to detail in working towards and achieving this milestone.

Sustainability is always a challenge for not-for-profit organisations, but I believe that The Story Island Project is well-placed to develop and thrive; we look forward in 2020 to continuing to develop and grow our capacity to deliver exciting and valuable programs for Tasmanian students.

Lynne Hanlon
President

2018–19 Programs

Over 300 young people benefitted from Story Island activities in 2018–19, attending programs we delivered across a range of school and community settings across Hobart and regional Tasmania.

WEATHER STATION (December 2018–May 2019)

Weather Station was a collaborative program based in Queenstown and auspiced by the Unconformity. Funded by Arts Tasmania, the program involved creative storytelling and visual arts workshops delivered to young people living in the isolated community of Queenstown on Tasmania's west coast. *Weather Station* explored the community's experience of local weather through creative storytelling including writing, visual art and technology.

People involved

- Story Island staff (workshop leaders – Emily Bullock and Kate Gross)
- The Unconformity
- Julia Drouhin (performance artist, Sisters Akousmatica)
- Mountain Heights School, Queenstown



Outcomes

Between December 2018 and May 2019, 14 young people aged 7–9 engaged in four day-long workshops as part of *Weather Station*. At the end of the program, Story Island held a successful celebration event at Mountain Heights School that showcased the students' work. This was attended by approximately 20 of students' family members/friends/carers and visiting class groups from across the school. Story Island also published a zine publication, *The Queenstown Weather Superhero Book*, to showcase the student work produced through the workshops. All students received their own copy of the book, as well as a certificate and badge that honoured their creative work.

STORY MAKERS (February–December 2019)

This project was delivered in partnership with the Bayview Association of schools (Bayview Secondary College, Clarendon Vale Primary, Rokeby Primary, Lauderdale Primary and South Arm Primary).

Across the 2019 school year, Story Island provided class teachers in the Association's Middle Years Literacy Project with fortnightly writing challenges for students. These creative challenges aligned with the member schools' literacy methodology and goals, drawn from the *6 + 1 Traits of Writing* curriculum resource by Ruth Culham, and gave students regular, authentic opportunities to apply their literacy learning in creative, fun ways. Teachers at the schools have ongoing access to the creative challenges online and will use them to inform their creative storytelling teaching practice into the future.



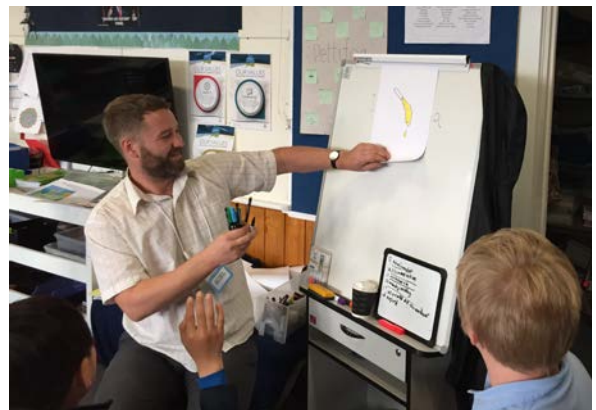
STORIES SOWN, STORIES GROWN (March–November 2019)



Stories Sown, Stories Grown was our major program of creative storytelling workshops for 2019. Aimed at young people in low socio-economic communities in Hobart's northern suburbs, the program was delivered through three local primary schools: Bowen Road Primary School, Moonah Primary School and Glenorchy Primary School. Funded by Arts Tasmania, it comprised two eight-week workshop series ('Sense in Nonsense' and 'A Trunk Full of Stories') and one one-off workshop ('Global Story Club'). Story Island designed these workshops to offer individual creative support to participants, and to address social disadvantage and low literacy skills by building participants' creative confidence and fostering positive relationships and experiences with the arts.

People involved

- Story Island staff (workshop leader – Emily Bullock; volunteer coordinator – Kate Gross)
- Leigh Rigozzi – guest workshop visual artist (8 sessions)
- Volunteer tutors – Story Island recruited, screened and trained 23 people to be volunteer tutors for this program. Volunteer tutors worked with small groups of students within workshops, providing individualised support and encouragement so students could gain maximum benefit from the program.
- Fae Robinson – independent consultant. Fae Robinson conducted an evaluation of the overall program, combining her own workshop observations with feedback from key stakeholders (Story Island staff, volunteer tutors, participating students and teachers) to produce a final report that outlined her overall findings and recommendations for future program design and delivery.
- Workshop participants:
 - Sense in Nonsense – Bowen Road Primary (Term 2) 24 students
 - Sense in Nonsense – Moonah Primary (Term 2) 24 students
 - A Trunk Full of Stories – Bowen Road Primary (Term 3) 23 students
 - A Trunk Full of Stories – Moonah Primary (Term 3) 24 students



Global Story Club – Bowen Road Primary (Term 3) 23 students
Global Story Club – Moonah Primary (Term 3) 26 students
Global Story Club – Glenorchy Primary (Term 3) 16 students

Outcomes

Stories Sown, Stories Grown was delivered to Grade 5/6 classes at our partner schools from April to September 2019. A total of 159 students across the three schools took part in the program.

At the end of each eight-week workshop series ('Sense in Nonsense' and 'A Trunk Full of Stories'), each participating student received a printed anthology of the creative pieces produced by their class.

At the end of the one-off Global Story Club workshops, teachers were invited to encourage their students to continue the stories begun in this workshop, then send completed stories to us for consideration for publication in *National Geographic Kids* magazine. Eight of these stories will be published in *National Geographic Kids* magazine in 2020.



Benefits to participants

- Creative agency: enhanced skills and greater confidence in writing and creative storytelling
- Positive relationships: opportunities for engagement with artists and trained volunteers
- Accessible and inclusive arts programming: participation and engagement in free, high-quality publishing projects
- Social health and wellbeing: engagement in safe and supported environments, building empowerment, capacity and self-esteem.



In her evaluation of the *Stories Sown, Stories Grown* program, consultant Fae Robinson concluded that the program was 'a rich resource for teachers and schools, an inspiration for students to develop their English language and writing skills, and a rewarding experience for volunteer tutors'. She also said that, 'the combination of the Story Island facilitator, illustrator and volunteer tutors enabled and empowered the students to grow in confidence and creativity, and to improve their writing skills. Teachers and schools recognised the value of the programs to their students, both throughout the workshop series and beyond into regular classroom work.'

MOONAH TASTE OF THE WORLD FESTIVAL (March 2019)

Story Island held a children's storytelling stall at the Moonah Taste of the World Festival on 24 March 2019 – our third consecutive year at this major community event. This popular festival celebrates the rich cultural diversity of the Glenorchy municipality through food, music, dance and cultural and family activities. Story Island offered a range of interactive drop-in storytelling activities for young people. The stall was also used as an opportunity to promote Story Island's 2019 programs and recruit volunteer tutors for upcoming workshop programs in the local area.

Organisational development

Volunteer recruitment and training

In 2018–19, a major focus of Story Island’s organisational development was to recruit and train a team of volunteer tutors to support young people in our creative workshops. As well as recruiting suitable people who were keen to join us, developing this area of our organisation involved creating appropriate induction and training materials, policies and procedures to ensure that volunteer tutors were well trained for their role, and that we established and maintained a safe workshop environment for staff, volunteer tutors and, most importantly, our young workshop participants.

We established our volunteer induction and training materials, policies and procedures in consultation with Volunteering Tasmania, and Volunteering Australia’s National Standards for Volunteer Involvement, to ensure that we complied with best practice in volunteer management and child safety.

Across 2019, we recruited, screened and trained 23 people to be Story Island volunteer tutors. These tutors assisted us in our Stories Sown, Stories Grown program, and were a vital part of the success of this program. In addition, the feedback gathered from volunteer tutors as part of our 2019 program evaluation has helped us to refine volunteer involvement in future Story Island programs.



In November 2018, we were thrilled to be awarded the Ricoh Business Centre Hobart Community Group of the Year, part of the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards. The awards were presented at a gala dinner at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, which was a great occasion to recognise and celebrate the achievements of so many individuals and organisations working to make a difference in communities across Tasmania.



DGR endorsement and ACNC registration

In 2019, we achieved two major milestones in our development as an organisation – registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and endorsement by the Australian Tax Office as a ‘deductible gift recipient’ (which means that donations made to Story Island are now tax deductible for donors). These milestones will greatly assist Story Island’s ability to raise funds and access a wider range of grants and philanthropic funds into the future.

We would like to thank Joss Fenton of 4 Business & Community for supporting us through the lengthy application process for these endorsements.

Sourcing funds

In 2018–19, Story Island secured funding from the following sources to support our work:

Arts Tasmania – Youth Arts (Organisations) Program 2018

Auspiced by The Unconformity, this funding enabled us to deliver the Weather Station program to students at Mountain Heights School, Queenstown, in 2018–19.

Arts Tasmania – Youth Arts (Organisations) Program 2019

This funding enabled us to deliver the Stories Sown, Stories Grown program to students at Bowen Road Primary School, Moonah Primary School and Glenorchy Primary School across 2019.

Australian Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants

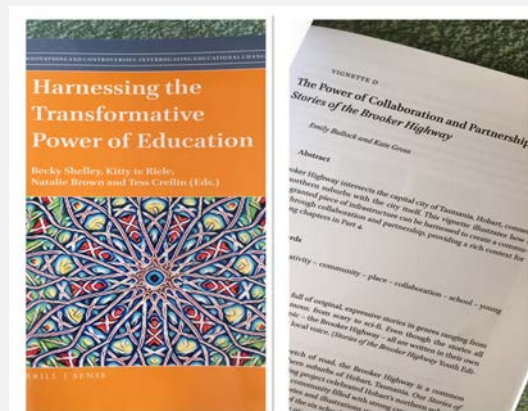
This grant enabled us to buy computer equipment and subsidised the cost of new volunteers’ Working with Vulnerable People registration.

2020 Funding

In late 2019, we found out that we had secured organisational funding from Arts Tasmania to support the delivery of an expanded and revised version of our Stories Sown, Stories Grown program across 2020.



In 2019, we were invited to contribute to the book *Harnessing the Transformative Power of Education* by the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment. This book is a selection of papers from the Underwood Centre’s 2017 Education Transforms symposium, where we presented a paper on our 2017 Stories of the Brooker Highway community storytelling project.



Financial Report 2018–19

Notes:

- This report is presented to the Board subject to auditing.
- This report covers the period July 2018–December 2019, as the organisation changed its reporting period from a traditional financial year to a calendar year. It therefore includes statements for the full 18-month period, and the 2019 calendar year.

Heather Chong
Treasurer

Profit and Loss for the 18 months to 31 December 2019

	6 mths to 31/12/18	Y/E 31/12 19	18 months
<u>Income</u>			
Stories of the Brooker Highway	90.00	10.00	100.00
Street Library Project	-	1,057.40	1,057.40
The Unconformity	-	8,060.00	8,060.00
DSS Volunteer Grant	-	4,100.00	4,100.00
Arts Tas Stories Sown II	-	2,128.20	2,128.20
Youth Arts Program	-	27,119.49	27,119.49
Sundry Income	1,467.40	30.01	1,497.41
Bank Interest	2.58	11.91	14.49
			-
Total Income	1,559.98	42,517.01	44,076.99
			-
<u>Expenses</u>			
Catering	175.50	-	175.50
DSS Volunteers	-	2,917.04	2,917.04
Youth Arts Program			-
YAP Storyteller	-	16,700.00	16,700.00
YAP Visual Artist	-	2,490.73	2,490.73
YAP Project Officer	-	9,610.32	9,610.32
YAP Project and Prdn	-	1,199.81	1,199.81
YAP Marketing and Promotion	-	518.60	518.60
YAP Docs	-	566.87	566.87

YAP Vol Costs	-	163.26	163.26
YAP Evaluation	-	4,772.73	4,772.73
Superannuation	-	437.98	437.98
YAP Grant Expenses		36,460.30	36,460.30
Administration Expenses			
Web site and domain	138.08	346.52	484.60
Insurance	0.00	1057.10	1,057.10
Admin costs	0.00	887.67	887.67
Total Admin	138.08	2291.29	2,429.37
Total Expenses	313.58	41668.63	41,982.21
<u>Net Profit / Loss</u>	<u>1246.40</u>	<u>848.38</u>	<u>2094.78</u>

Profit & Loss Statement

January 2019 To December 2019

ABN: 81 478 918 677

Income		
Stories of the Brooker Highway		\$10.00
Street Library Project		\$1,057.40
The Unconformity		\$8,060.00
DSS Volunteer Grant		\$4,100.00
Arts Tas Stories Sown II		\$2,128.20
Stories Sown Income		\$27,119.49
Sundry Income		\$30.01
Bank Interest		\$11.91
Total Income		\$42,517.01
Gross Profit		
\$42,517.01		
Expenses		
Grant Expenses		
DSS Volunteers	\$2,917.04	
Youth Arts Program		
YAP Storyteller fees	\$16,700.00	
YAP Visual Artist Fee	\$2,490.73	
YAP Project Officer	\$9,610.32	
YAP Project & Prod'n w/shop mat	\$1,199.81	
YAP Marketing and Promotion	\$518.60	
YAP Project & Prod'n (docs)	\$566.87	
YAP Project & Prod'n Vol costs	\$163.26	
YAP Project & Prod'n Evaluation	\$4,772.73	
Superannuation	\$437.98	
Total Grant Expenses		\$39,377.34
Administration Expenses		
Web site and domain	\$346.52	
Insurance	\$1,057.10	
Admin costs	\$887.67	
Total Administration Expenses		\$2,291.29
Total Expenses		\$41,668.63
Operating Profit		\$848.38
Net Profit/(Loss)		\$848.38

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet

As of December 2019

ABN: 81 478 918 677

Assets	
Bank of Us Community Advantage	\$77,273.12
Total Assets	\$77,273.12
Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	\$5,964.00
Superannuation payable	\$537.98
Salary Sacrifice	\$1,200.00
PAYG Payable	\$576.00
Arts Tasmania grant	\$2,531.51
Arts Tasmania II	\$60,871.80
Total Liabilities	\$71,681.29
Net Assets	\$5,591.83
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$4,743.45
Current Year Earnings	\$848.38
Total Equity	\$5,591.83

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.