


StoryFACTORY

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023





**Story Factory acknowledges the Lands on which our centres are based, the Lands of the Gadigal and Burramattagal peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these areas and recognise their custodial responsibilities and deep connection to country, people and culture. We also acknowledge that many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have made Sydney and Greater Western Sydney their home, and we recognise their contributions to the life of this city and this region. We pay our respects to all Elders and First Nations peoples across Australia.**

ARTWORK BY MURRAWARI AND EUAHLAYI ARTIST, DANIELLE MATE

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The very last Story Factory event for 2023 was, fittingly, the publication of 29 books written by young people. We launched 13 novellas and 16 books of poetry at a wonderful celebration at the University of Sydney attended by around 200 of our young writers' families and friends. Cheers and smiles lit up the room.

We think of these published writers as our lighthouse students. In 2023 we saw more young people than ever before - nearly 10,000 across our in-person and digital programs - and only a small fraction take on the gargantuan task of writing and publishing their own book in a year. But their achievement is a beacon to every young person who picks up a pen in our programs. These writers show other young people what is possible. They demonstrate how powerful, articulate and engaging young people's voices can be.

“

*Writing creatively improves young people's wellbeing. It gives a sense of agency and belonging, and it helps young people understand themselves and the world. What could be more powerful, or important, than that?*

It has been a challenging year. There is a well-documented wellbeing crisis in our schools. We had a bruising referendum on recognition of First Nations peoples that left many in our communities devastated. And we have seen brutal conflicts around the world take a terrible toll, and weigh heavily on people around us.

In such an environment, writing matters even more. We recently commissioned independent research that backed up what we've seen for years: writing creatively improves young people's wellbeing. It builds a sense of agency and belonging, and it helps young people understand themselves and the world. What could be more powerful, or important, than that?

Thank you so much to all our supporters for making 2023 a year of such impact, and allowing our young writers to shine.

**Dr Catherine Keenan AM**  
Executive Director and Co-founder



# BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

“

*Our strength at Story Factory is our community. Stories don't exist in isolation; they come to life when they are shared.*

I am proud to say that it's been another year of growth and impact at Story Factory. Last year was the first year of our Five Year Strategy 2023-27 and saw some important innovations in our work, including:

- Rolling out our interactive digital programs to schools across Australia;
- Launching our Reflect RAP and growing our engagement with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- Working with alumni of our programs (ages 18-22) for the first time, and publishing their work in our first journal, Platform 1.

While we are proud of these innovations, I am equally proud that we continue to run the programs we have tested over time - and that our team continually strives to make them more impactful so we can better amplify the voices of young people. I am particularly excited that with the help of our Indigenous staff, we are more deeply embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content into our programs, a development that both students and teachers have responded to very positively.

Our strength at Story Factory is our community. Stories don't exist in isolation; they come to life when they are shared.

We are so grateful to everyone who shared their stories with us in 2023: our students, our amazing staff and volunteers, my fellow board members, particularly Ali Green, our deputy chair, and of course our generous supporters. I know that you also understand that stories can change lives.

Thank you so much for continuing to allow us to create a safe space for important stories to be shared. We look forward to working with you again in 2024.

**Gemma Salteri**  
Chair, Story Factory Board of Directors





# STORY FACTORY AT A GLANCE



## OUR VISION

We want to see an Australia where all young people have a voice, and the skills and confidence to tell their stories.



## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to enrich the lives of young people in under-resourced communities through creative writing and storytelling.



## OUR VALUES

- Young people come first
- Writing is agency
- Creativity unleashes potential
- Diversity makes us better
- We have high expectations of ourselves and the young people we work with
- We have heart. Passion matters.

# OUR REACH

## ● PRIMARY SCHOOLS

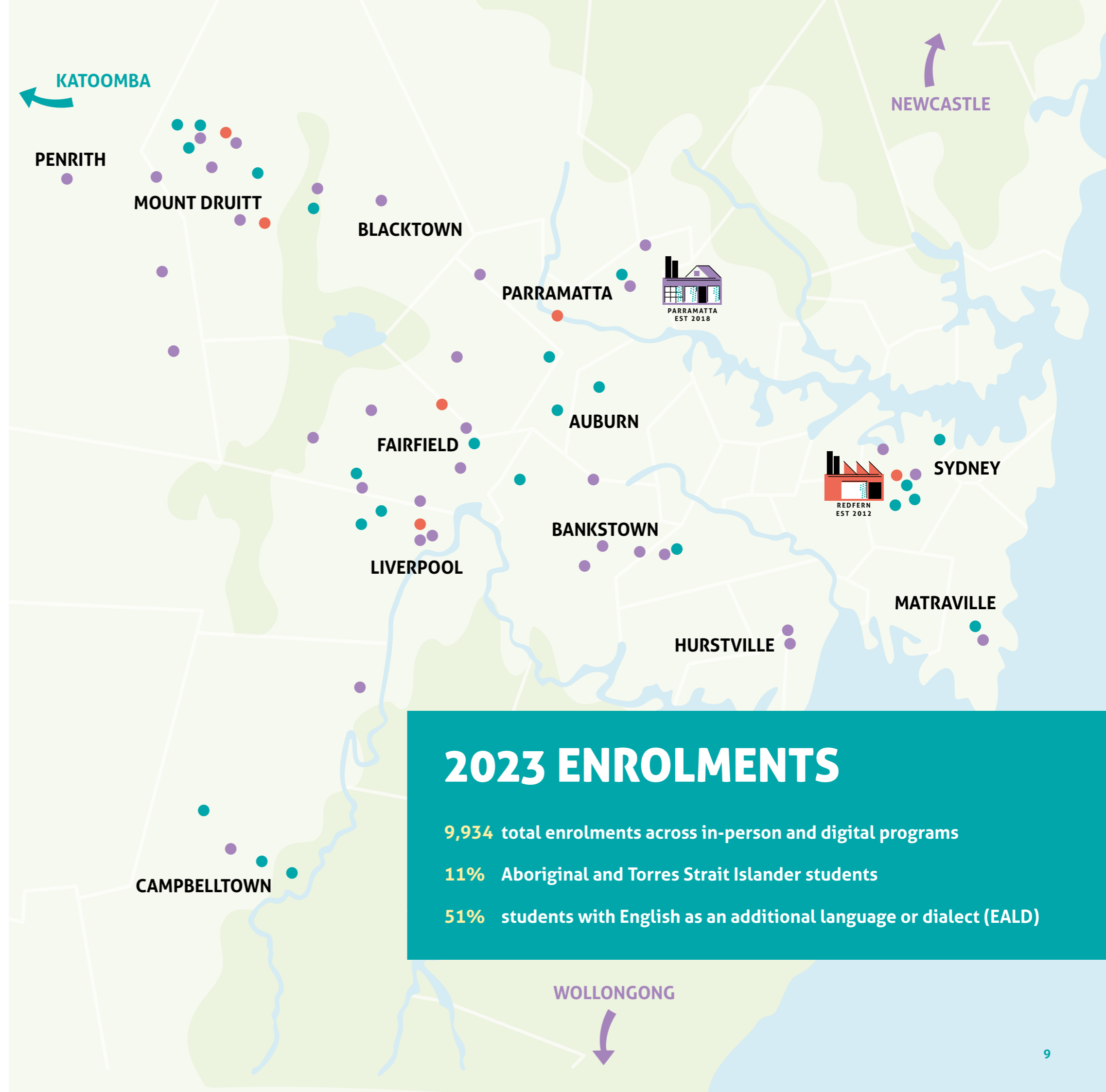
Alexandria Park Community School  
Blaxcell Street Public School  
Bonnyrigg Public School  
Busby Public School  
Claymore Public School  
Doonside Public School  
Holy Trinity Primary School  
Katoomba North Public School  
Kentlyn Public School  
Lakemba Public School  
Lethbridge Park Public School  
Matraville Soldiers Settlement Public School  
Mount Pritchard East Public School  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School  
Our Lady of The Rosary Catholic Primary School  
Plumpton Public School  
Plunkett Street Public School  
Redfern Jarjum College  
Ruse Public School  
Shalvey Public School  
St John's Catholic Primary School Auburn  
Telopea Public School  
Villawood East Public School  
Willmot Public School

## ● HIGH SCHOOLS

Bankstown Girls High School  
Bankstown Senior College  
Birrong Girls High School  
Blacktown Girls High School  
Bonnyrigg High School  
Bossley Park High School  
Cabramatta High School  
Cambridge Park High School  
Canley Vale High School  
Chifley College Bidwill Campus  
Chifley College Dunheved Campus  
Chifley College Mount Druitt Campus  
Chifley College Senior Campus  
Chifley College Shalvey Campus  
Doonside Technology High School  
Emmaus Catholic College  
Fairfield Intensive English Centre  
Gateway Community High School  
Holroyd High School  
Inner Sydney High School  
James Cook Boys Technology High School  
Kogarah High School  
Liverpool Boys High School  
Liverpool Girls High School  
Lomandra School  
Matraville Sports High School  
Pendle Hill High School  
Prairiewood High School  
Punchbowl Boys High School  
St Clair High School  
Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus  
University of Newcastle - Ourimbah Campus  
University of Wollongong - Wollongong Campus  
Wiley Park Girls High School  
Wiyanga

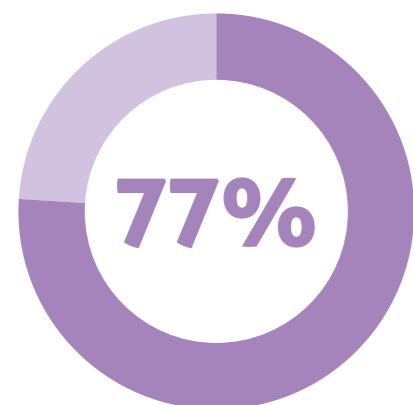
## ● COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Fairfield City Museum & Gallery  
Learning Ground  
Liverpool Neighbourhood Connections  
Rooty Hill Community Group  
Settlement Services International  
The Settlement  
Youth Off the Streets



# OUR IMPACT

Developed with respected consultancy  
Clear Horizon, our robust evaluation  
processes prove we're making a difference.

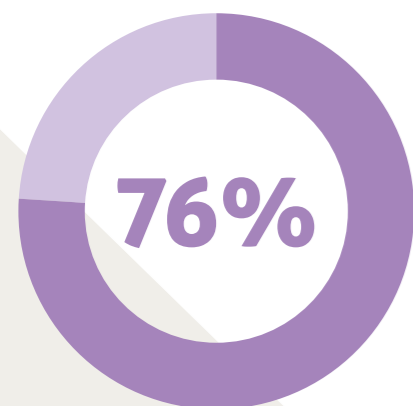


of students  
enjoyed  
writing with  
us in our  
workshops

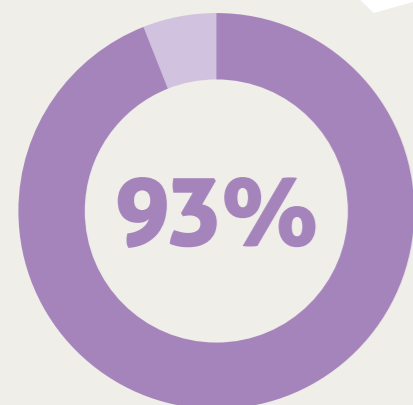
“

*The students struggle with social expression and find it difficult to find their voice in this world but the workshop allowed them a safe and free space to express themselves. They just soared.*

Jo D'Antonio, Teacher  
Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus



of students  
increased their  
literacy skills  
according to  
their teachers



of teachers  
reported that  
participating in  
our programs  
impacted  
their teaching  
practice



In 2022, we commissioned independent research on the wellbeing benefits of writing creatively for young people, especially those with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and First Nations heritage. The literature review by consultancy String Theory found significant evidence that creative writing can support young people's wellbeing in four key ways.

1.

**Creative writing** programs, especially those with a group workshop component, can **help participants be present in the moment** and with others.



2.

**Writing creatively can facilitate a closer connection with and discovery of self.** Especially when creative writing deals with your personal experiences in some way, it can give insight about yourself and emotional clarity.



3.

**Creative writing programs can help young people gain a sense of agency:** the feeling that they can 'do something.' These programs do so by increasing self-efficacy, sparking hopes and aspirations, and developing the ability to shape narratives.



4.

**Creative writing programs can facilitate a sense of belonging** and shared experience for participants, not just within the program itself, but within communities beyond it as well.



# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ENGAGEMENT & PROGRAMMING



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2023 Story Factory employed Evie Willie in the brand new role of Story Guide. Evie is a proud Wiradjuri woman and singer/songwriter, with over a decade's experience mentoring young people within grassroots communities and abroad. The role was developed to be more than just community engagement. It is an opportunity for the Story Guide to have a more hands-on role in the running of programs and the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the schools and communities we work with. In her few months with us, Evie has been forging strong connections with school staff and community organisations, adding a wealth of knowledge and ideas into our programming, and preparing to lead us into our second Reconciliation Action Plan.



## BAYALA GURAWA "VOICES IN THE WIND" RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

This year we completed our first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. It was an inspiring process, not only serving to cement our commitment to reconciliation in Australia, but also allowing us to implement deeper foundational commitments across the scope of our organisation to meaningfully consider and include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives in our work. We launched our RAP in April with a beautiful celebration that included a Welcome to Country from Yvonne Weldon, a dancing troupe from Mt Druitt, student readings from Redfern Jarjum College and a song sung by students from Shalvey Public School.

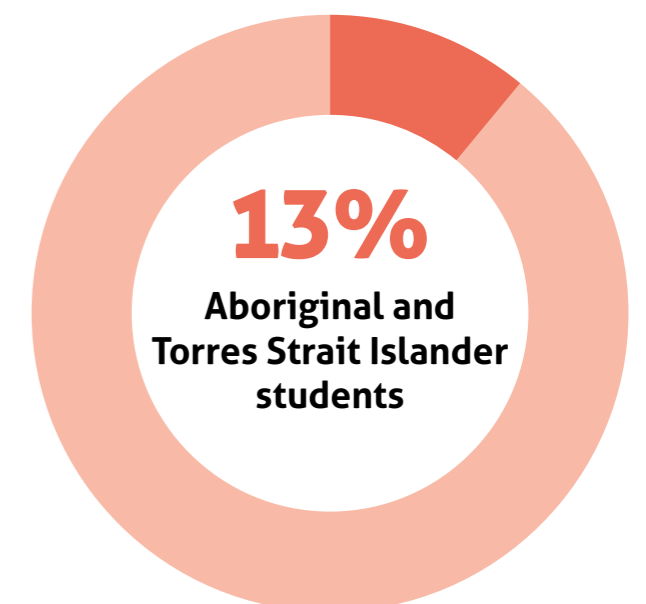


## CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS STORIES AND STUDENT WRITING

As part of our RAP commitment we have been paying a lot of attention to our workshop programming, setting ambitious targets for the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mentor texts, concepts, language and perspectives. This extends to using written work from our own students as mentor texts, allowing other students to see themselves as writers contributing to a wider conversation.

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENT ENROLMENTS

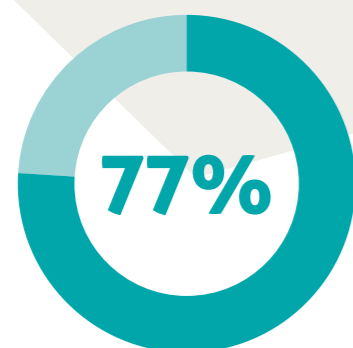
This year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students made up 13% of our total in-person student enrolments - which is more than 900 First Nations young people.



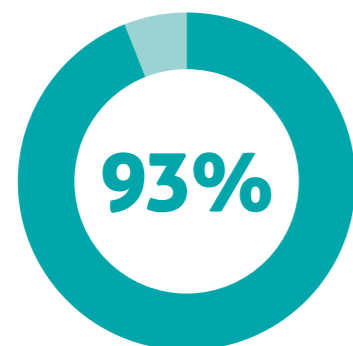
# SCHOOL PROGRAMS

We see the majority of our students in our School Programs: term-length programs run at primary and high schools during school time. In 2023, we delivered 300 of these programs, reaching 6,200 young people.

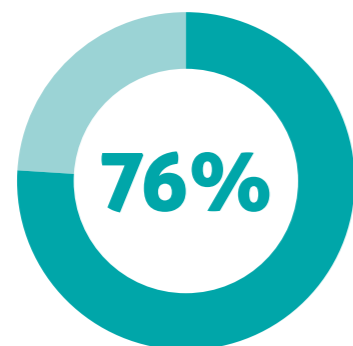
Teachers reported that:



of their students are more confident writers

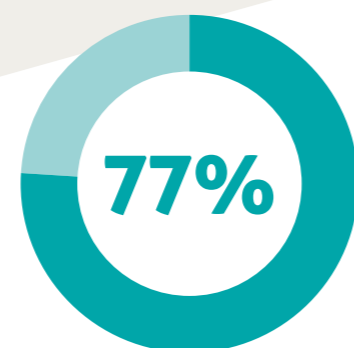


of teachers have changed their practice



of their students improved their literacy

In addition,



of students reported that they enjoyed writing with us

To meet demand, our team grew significantly this year. We also expanded the range of our high school programs, to make sure we had programs for students who are highly motivated and looking to improve their writing approach, and programs specifically designed to engage disengaged students.

A particularly successful example of the latter was (Im)moral Compass, a program based around the telling of campfire stories. This was delivered to 12 classes across eight schools, specifically to students who were struggling to engage with the writing process. This playful program, which included looking at urban legends and describing unusual phobias, met students where they were at with their literacy, and allowed them to build their writing skills week to week.



For the first time this year, a number of our primary school programs gave students opportunities to incorporate Aboriginal languages into their writing. Oz Odyssey is a program that takes Year 5 & 6 students on a journey through Wiradjuri Country, Ngarrindjeri Country and Kunwinjku Country. Wiradjuri words fueled their stories and setting descriptions as they learned about themselves and ultimately wrote about what home meant to them. In Term 4, students also had an opportunity to write in Dharug on Dharug land, as part of the Gidjirrigaa (that's budgerigar in Gamilaroi and Wiradjuri) workshop series for students in Years 3 & 4!

We also run many one-off workshops at our Redfern and Parramatta centres, and at schools. We were particularly delighted to work with the fantastic students in the support unit at Sydney Secondary College, Blackwattle Bay Campus, and students with a disability enrolled at Wiyanga at St Patrick's Marist College Dundas.

We are always keen to share what we know, and our staff presented at a number of conferences, including the Australian Association for the Teaching of English/Australian Literacy Educators' Association National Conference, and the State Conference of the English Teachers' Association of New South Wales.

The positive outcomes of our programs are supported by teacher and student feedback:

“

*Being a part of this program has given me insight into the different strategies that could be used to engage students with stories. I am reminded of the importance of storytelling and developing this with RELATIONAL pedagogy - knowing your students!*

Teacher, Bonnyrigg High School

“

*This Story Factory was the best best experience ever in my whole life.*

Student, Alexandria Park Community School

“

*Highly appreciate the vibe and support of the team from Story Factory. Honestly I didn't think anyone would pick how good my writing was but they showed the brightness in me.*

Student, Birrong Girls High School

DRAW A LINE BETWEEN THE ANIMAL AND THE ONOMATOPOEIA  
ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE NAME

**wak (WAAAAAAK)**  
Gumatj language

**djiribbi djirribi**  
Gumatj language

**gugurrgaagaa**  
Dharawal language

**njeerk**  
Gumatj language

**bubuk**  
Dharawal language

**woorr' wurr'**  
Gumatj language

**nyi nyi**  
Pitjantjatjara language

**gunggagung**  
Dharug language

**guuguubarra**  
Wiradjuri language

**KOOKABURRA** 

**COMMON OWL** 

**BLACK CROW** 

**WHITE COCKATOO** 

**KOOKABURRA** 

**WILLY WAGTAIL** 

**FROG** 

**ZEBRA FINCH** 

**BOOBROOK OWL** 

TRY A WORKSHEET  
FROM OUR  
**Gidjirrigaa!**  
WORKSHOP

**DHARUG WORD BANK**

Circle 1-2 words  
per list that you  
will use for your  
budgie  
description.

**IDENTITY  
+ SIZE**

narang - small  
marri - big  
wungarra - boy  
waruwi - girl  
burung - child or baby  
guriyal - parrot  
dilbung - a small bird  
gurara - long or tall  
yidbung - bird

**TRICKS**

gaxabara - dance  
wari - carry away  
wilbing - fly  
bunya - kiss  
baraya or yaban - sing  
ngalawa - sit  
barila - finger or fingers  
dyanmila - play  
yaban - sing  
wurgawina - whistle

**COLOURS**

dyarri - orange  
yarragul - yellow  
dyarri yarragul - pink  
ngana - black  
bulga - green  
dabuwa - white  
bura - blue  
dabuwa - grey  
ngana - black

**EATING**

badal-ya - food  
bada or bara - eat  
wugi - fruit  
bumurra - apple

**BODY PARTS**

ngunyul - feathers  
wilbing - wing  
maya - eye  
gabara - head or face  
barrang - stomach  
dun - tail

**TALKING**

warami - good to see you /  
hello / where are you from  
budyari ngutti -  
good evening  
budyari mullinawul -  
good morning  
nigiyini budyari -  
are you good?  
budyari nawunya -  
good to see you  
yanu - bye I go  
yuwin - yes  
budyari - good  
mittigar - friend  
digerigura - thank you  
gai - please

DABURA OF \_\_\_\_\_



Written by: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:**

**IDENTITY  
+ SIZE:**

**COLOURS  
& BODY  
PARTS:**

**TRICKS:**

**TALKING:**

# OPEN PROGRAMS



In 2023, we worked with 1,017 young people in our term-long and year-long after-school programs, itemised below.



## Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry



**12** High school programs  
(8 online, 4 in-person)

**12** Primary school programs  
(8 online, 4 in-person)



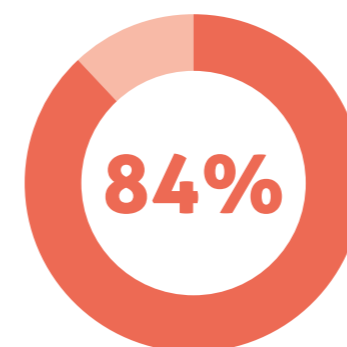
**12** Off-site programs  
(in-person)



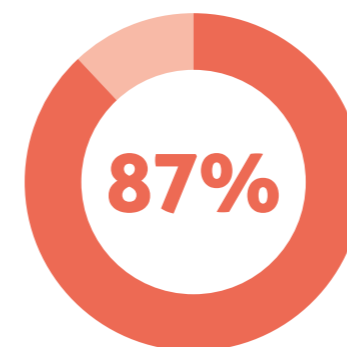
**4** Primary school programs  
(in-person)

Our open programs are run after school at our Redfern and Parramatta centres, online, and offsite at schools and community centres across Sydney. These programs are for young people in primary and high school who are keen to stretch their writing muscles beyond the demands of the school curriculum, who really want to let their imaginations fly.

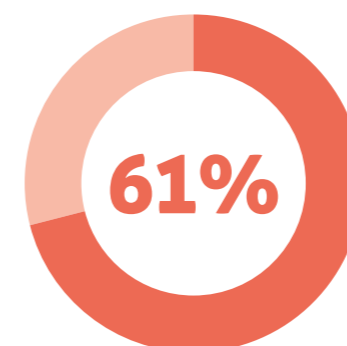
Survey data revealed that:



of students felt they were better writers after participating in our after school workshops



of students enjoyed writing with us



of students felt more confident about writing after participating in our workshops

In addition to improvements in writing and confidence, students also gained invaluable social skills as they fostered friendships with students from other schools and different year groups, and learned how to uplift the work of others in their role as peer editors. This positive impact was particularly evident among students who were previously hesitant to share their work.

Long-term benefits for participating students include:

- A greater sense of aspiration and self;
- Increased academic engagement and achievement;
- The development of vital, transferable skills such as literacy, creative thinking, and critical analysis.

We expect that the skills and confidence students have gained through our after-school programs will open the door for more positive outcomes in the long term, including access to further education and employment opportunities that will ultimately help them thrive as active members of their communities.

“

*I saw this confidence at our end-of-term celebration, where every student was keen to read their piece aloud or have a volunteer read it. It was remarkable to witness, as some of these students had been reluctant to share during the earlier sessions. The pride they took in their stories was evident, and their willingness to showcase their work was testament to the growth in their confidence as writers.*

Tash Bonyng, Program Facilitator



# YEAR OF POETRY & YEAR OF THE NOVELLA

**Year of Poetry and Year of the Novella are our longest and most intensive programs. From January to December 2023, we supported 29 young writers - 16 poets and 13 novella writers - to publish their very own book.**

In weekly 90-minute workshops delivered at our Parramatta centre, these amazing young people engaged deeply with mentor texts from a wide range of authors. They briefed a designer about their cover, and collaborated with professional editors from Penguin Random House and elsewhere. They were mentored and supported by our extraordinary facilitators, and inspired by visiting writers including Markus Zusak, Debra Oswald, Mawunyo Gbogbo, Felicity Castagna, BEA, Eileen Chong and Jazz Money who shared insights into their artistic practice.

Their books were launched in December at a fantastic and very moving event at the University of Sydney. All our writers read an excerpt from their work to a crowd of 200 family and friends. Their books are now for sale at our Redfern bookshop and online.

Feedback on the programs was overwhelmingly positive, with:

**86%** of students reporting their enjoyment of writing increased.

**95%** of students reporting their writing skills increased.

**90%** of students reporting their writing confidence improved.

Throughout 2023, we also engaged evaluators to articulate the impact of the programs on the wellbeing of participants. We will share these results in early 2024.

Many of the young people involved in these programs have come to truly identify as writers, whose unique and diverse voices are worth sharing with the world. They are the next generation of Australian authors.

“

*Until very recently I thought I didn't know what I wanted my career to be. But Story Factory has shown me that writing doesn't have to be just a hobby. It's a real skill that people learn and develop and work at. And it can be a career. And I know it's not impossible because for me it's already started. I am an author. I am a poet...I'm not particularly religious, but I think if I believed in a type of heaven, it would look a lot like Story Factory's Year of Poetry workshops in Parramatta on a Thursday afternoon.*

BEA, poet and former student



# WORKING WITH OUR ALUMNI

## YEAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

**Since opening in Redfern in 2012, Story Factory has supported more than 50,000 young people to write and share their stories. Now, we're helping budding young writers thrive in the world after school too.**

**This year we introduced the Year of Opportunities, a program for young people aged 18 to 22 who have graduated from our longest programs, Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry. They have all written and professionally published at least one book with us, and are ready to take the next step in their writing careers.**

Every fortnight, this group of diverse and thrilling young writers came together at our Parramatta centre to discuss how they could continue their writing journeys.

In 2023, these alumni took up 66 additional publishing and/or performance opportunities, surpassing our annual target. Highlights included:

- Ela Pinar winning the Bankstown Poetry Slam's National Youth Poetry Slam;
- Victoria Bassett-Wilton receiving the Penguin Random House Australia Write It Fellowship;
- BEA securing an internship at Penguin Random House;
- Arlea Whelan securing an internship at Red Room Poetry;
- Vivian Pham securing an artist residency at Millay Arts in New York state.



## LAUNCHING A NEW PLATFORM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES

**In 2023, we also launched another project for our alumni, publishing the first issue of our first Story Factory journal, Platform 1.**

The journal is the result of our special project, Creative Circle, which invited young writers and creators aged 15 to 25 into Story Factory Parramatta for a series of events with experienced writers, singers, muralists and film-makers – Zeadala, Marcus Khoudair, Eileen Chong, STYNA and Mawunyo Gbogbo.

The young creators wrote pieces of poetry, prose and even short screenplays in response to the guest artists' themes, ideas and artworks.

The journal collects the best of these pieces, and is a vibrant contribution to Australian literature.



“

*[Story Factory] also helped me understand what opportunities there are as a creative artist, as a creative writer. They helped me find confidence within my own voice and my own performance, because I was encouraged to perform my poetry in front of an audience.*

Jihad Yassine, author of two books of poetry published by Story Factory, *River* and *Interpretation*.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS

Every year, we deliver a number of exciting Special Projects. These are run across multiple schools, often in collaboration with another arts organisation, and end with an exciting public outcome - whether it's a book, exhibition or script.

One of our favourite projects in 2023 was Memory River, which combined Indigenous history, stories and art with the voices of nearly 250 young people from Western Sydney. The project was a collaboration with the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct, and with acclaimed Barkindji artist Maddison Gibbs and proud Gamilaroi and Anaiwon writer Cathy Craigie.

Students from 12 Western Sydney high schools, many of whom identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, engaged with the pre-colonial history of the Parramatta River and the much darker colonial history of the Female Factory as a convict prison, asylum and girls home. They created deeply moving poetry and artworks that reflected on this history and explored links with their own experiences.

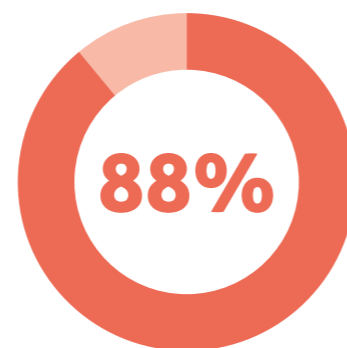
The project culminated in an exhibition on site at the Female Factory, showcasing the students' writing and art, and Gibb's site-specific installation.

“

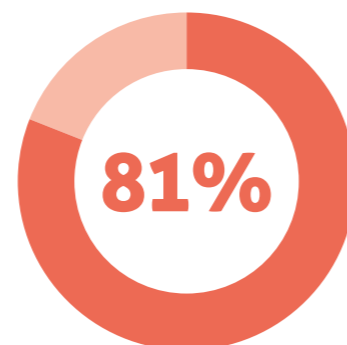
*To me the best things about this program were learning more about my culture and getting to do art about poetry.*

Student, Cambridge Park High School

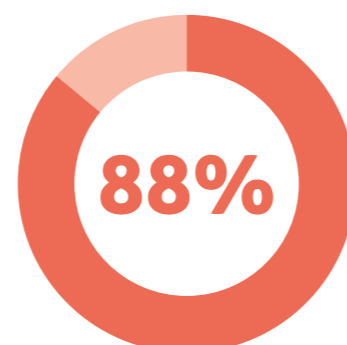
Teachers reported that:



of students enjoyed writing during these workshops



of participating students improved their writing skills



of students made critical and creative decisions that improved their writing

“

*Absolutely fantastic day! All students came back to school feeling so proud of what they had learned. The rich history they were able to engage with at the Female Factory was profoundly inspiring and moving for all students. We had a number of reluctant writers on this excursion. All students wrote something beautiful they are proud of.*

Teacher,  
Chifley College Dunheved Campus



# PUBLICATIONS

Publishing work by young people has always been at the heart of Story Factory's mission. All our programs end in a publication, whether it's an anthology printed in-house at the end of a term-length program in schools, or the books we professionally publish by the writers in our Year of Poetry and Year of the Novella programs. Everyone walks away with something they can hold in their hand and share with their family and friends. Publishing young people's work is a way of honouring and validating their words and amplifying their voices.

Research demonstrates that publishing young people's work fosters a sense of pride and we see that every day. Research also suggests that publishing young people's work increases their motivation to write and improves their writing revision skills. Knowing that they're going to be published inspires young people to stretch themselves and their imaginations.

A key pillar of our strategy is amplifying the voices of our young writers, and in 2023 an average of more than 5,200 people per month read our students' stories across our website, social media channels and in our e-news. Books by our students were sold at our online and Redfern stores, and stocked at 13 outlets, including school libraries, bookstores, conferences and community fairs.

“

*Story Factory has given me a place to express emotions I never thought I would share with the world. It has taken my passion and turned it into a way I interact with the world. Thank you for the support you have all given me.*

Student, Year of Poetry



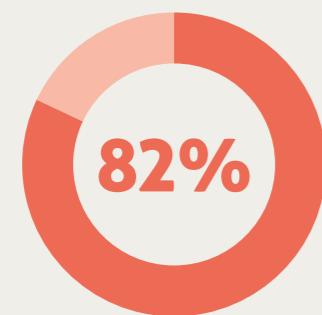
## In 2023, we launched Story Factory digital, delivering live, interactive digital creative writing programs to young people in schools right across Australia.

In our first year, we delivered 107 digital programs at 43 schools in seven states and territories, reaching nearly 3,000 young people we otherwise couldn't have seen. Many of these students are in regional and remote communities and have limited access to quality writing programs.

From our digital studio at our Parramatta centre, our Digital Storytellers entered classrooms via Zoom to work with teachers and create a fun and meaningful writing environment. They supported students to work through scaffolded activities that lead to the creation of a substantial piece of writing.

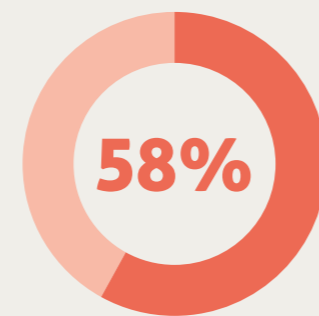
We now have a library of syllabus-aligned resources that are ready to use in our suite of digital programs for primary and high school students. These resources make use of a range of texts by Australian authors, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors, and authors providing a range of cultural, social and gender perspectives - helping students in regional and remote areas grow their cultural and social capital.

### Students reported that:

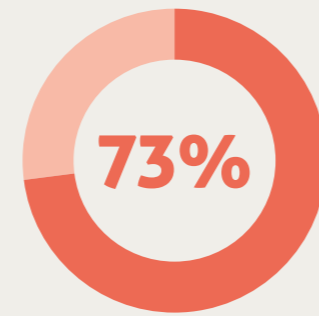


enjoyed writing with us

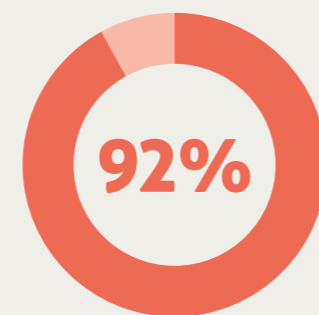
### Teachers reported that:



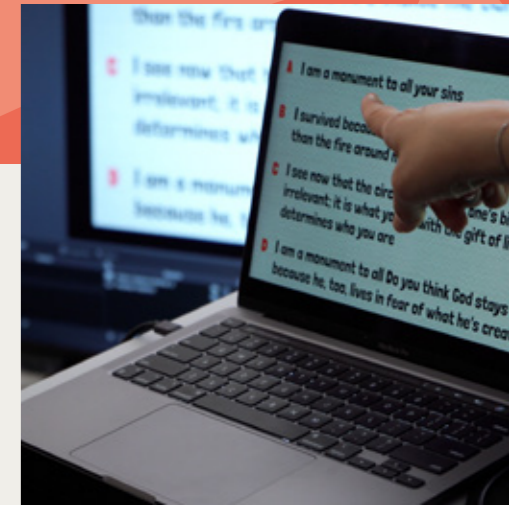
of students are more confident writers



of students developed strategies or skills that will be helpful in future writing activities



of teachers changed their teaching practice



## PUBLICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- Partnered with Reconciliation NSW to provide a video resource and worksheet package to help students write a story around Reconciliation for the Schools Reconciliation Challenge. This was viewed by more than 16,000 students.
- Designed and implemented a national Harmony Week campaign which booked out immediately.
- Kicked off Story Factory Digital's first online, interactive publication, Prescription Poetry. Our educators zoomed into classrooms across Australia to help students become Prescription Poets. Primary and high school students wrote original poems to alleviate all manner of modern ills, from worries about a big test to a broken heart. In the process, students improved their literacy, explored their creativity and reflected on their own wellbeing. Published poems were then shared on our website, with the public able to share poems with friends and loved ones.

“

*Thank you so much for presenting this program with equal parts zest and patience. Our support students, while reluctant to get too involved, loved the program and they have been talking about it to other students in our other support classes...We are certainly inspired to write more poetry/ lyrics and get creative and love seeing the students inspired and willing to have a go.*

Khym Harris, Newcastle High School, Support Unit

# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

**184** Volunteers attended  
in-person training

**63** Volunteers attended  
digital training

**8,035** Volunteer hours worked  
- valued at \$348,000

## GROWING OUR VIBRANT VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

The International Volunteer Day 2023 theme, "If Everyone Did", centred on the power of everyone. If everyone volunteered, the world would be a better place. As the world faces mounting challenges, volunteers are often the first to help.

Story Factory recognises the important role our volunteers play in our work and we celebrate their enormous contributions to the community we serve.

In 2023, we revitalised our volunteer engagement by increasing our presence in community events and activities. We built and strengthened partnerships with Universities such as Australian Catholic University, University of NSW and University of Sydney.



## Congratulations to Jade Pinar for winning the North Western Sydney Young Volunteer of the Year Award!

Jade has been volunteering in our term-long workshops at Telopea Public School for more than a year, providing creative writing support for students and helping them build literacy skills and confidence. Jade also helps us with behind-the-scenes tasks, including typing up student writing for publication.

## SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR UNIQUE STORIES

Philip has been part of the Story Factory community since we started running in-person workshops in 2011! He has given 600 hours of his time to help kids write and is one of the longstanding volunteer tutors at Redfern Jarjum College.



*“Volunteer at the Story Factory and you’ll get as much, if not more, out of it than the kids themselves and you go home every week thinking that was a real high spot of my week.”*

Alex has been part of the Story Factory community for over three years. During that time she has completed over 130 volunteer hours assisting our Storytellers in person, online and behind the scenes.



*“The volunteer community is just so beautiful and it's really nice to be a part of that. There's just so many different parts of the experience that I find really inspiring. I would say if you're thinking about getting involved as a volunteer at Story Factory, do it. It's been hands down one of the most rewarding things I've ever done.”*



# PARTNERS



Story Factory partners with businesses, philanthropic and corporate foundations, government bodies and individuals to deliver our work and impact. Thank you to every one of our generous partners, our steadfast community of Inkwell's monthly donors, and all those who have donated this financial year. We couldn't do this work without you.

## Principal Partners

The Shaw Foundation  
Edward Federman



## Significant Partners



Story Factory is supported by  
the Australian Government  
Department of Social Services



## Key Partners

Barbara Alice Trust  
Bill and Patricia Ritchie Foundation  
Fred P Archer Charitable Trust  
Rosie Williams and John Grill AO  
Sandra Salteri



Story Factory received funding  
from the Australian Government  
Department of Education through the  
Emerging Priorities Program (EPP)



## Major Partners

Gardos Family  
Ruth Ritchie Family Fund  
Vine Foundation



Story Factory is assisted by the Australian  
Government through the Australia Council,  
its arts funding and advisory body



Story Factory is supported  
by the NSW Government  
through Create NSW



## Supporting Partners

Annie Corlett AM and Bruce Corlett AM  
Baly Douglass Foundation  
Brown Family Foundation  
Darin Cooper Foundation  
Deborah Fullwood  
Gemma Salteri  
Gonski Foundation  
Rosebrook Foundation  
Shand Foundation  
The Wales Family Foundation



Story Factory has been supported through a  
City of Parramatta Council Community Grant

## Partners

Acadian Asset Management  
Albert Fisher Family  
Allen & Unwin  
Anne and John Leece AM and Family  
B'nai B'rith Bargain Bazaar  
Bernadette Brennan & Justin Gleeson  
Bloomsbury Publishing  
Briony Scott  
Bronwyn Gould and Ian Portek  
Caroline Beecham and John Lydon  
Chat 10 Looks 3 Productions  
Clan Duncan  
Coles Group  
Dana Stoll

Darrell John  
Deena Shiff & James Gillespie  
Elizabeth Hannan  
Eureka Benevolent Foundation  
Gail Hambly  
Gillian Savage  
Greg Dean  
Hachette Australia  
Ian and Jess Pollard  
Julia Ritchie  
Justin McCuaig Foundation  
Kim E Anderson  
Mike and Kerry Gonski  
Milanote

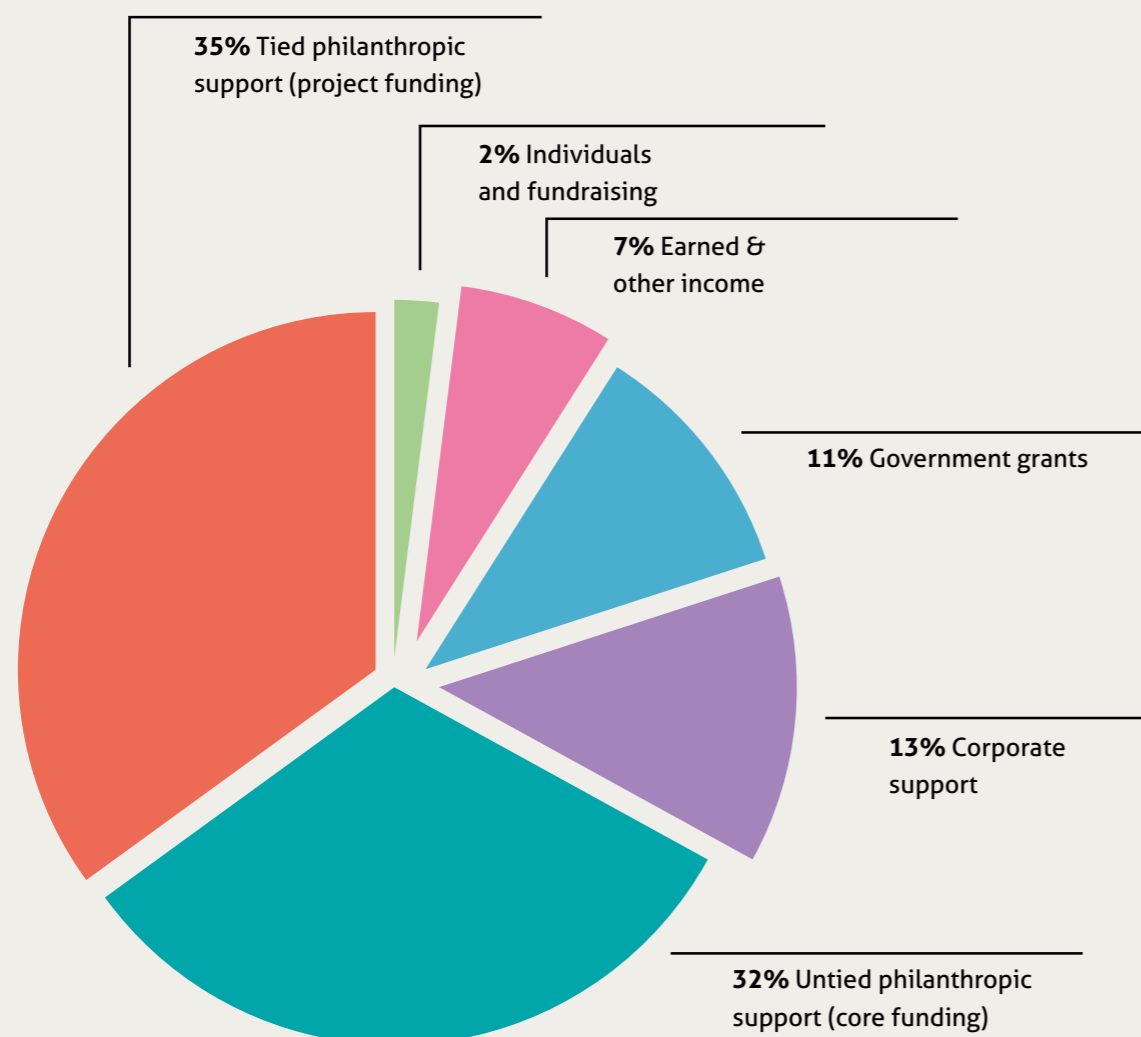
Nautilus Foundation  
Neil Burns  
Olding Family Foundation  
Park Street Group  
Ravenmill Foundation  
Ray Porter  
Robertson Foundation  
Sean Mooney  
South Eveleigh  
Sydney Community Foundation  
The Barton Foundation  
The Office Space  
The Snow Foundation  
Tony Strachan

## In Kind



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (SUMMARY)

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Total current assets	2,360,734	2,629,333
Total non-current assets	765,055	465,301
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3,125,789</b>	<b>3,094,634</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Total current liabilities	1,430,153	1,627,095
Total non-current liabilities	436,517	104,166
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,866,670</b>	<b>1,731,261</b>
Net assets	1,259,119	1,363,373
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated funds	1,259,119	1,363,373
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,259,119</b>	<b>1,363,373</b>



## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Untied donations	1,269,970	1,111,369
Other grants and tied donations	1,264,650	926,788
Government grants	340,578	75,960
Sale of goods	25,842	8,395
Workshop income	143,075	94,316
Venue hire	-	1,023
Membership income	-	50
Government assistance	-	71,263
Interest income	21,798	1,221
Other income	-	12,979
Total revenue	3,065,913	2,303,364
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>3,065,913</b>	<b>2,303,364</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Costs of goods sold	(6,505)	(389)
Administration and other operating costs	(292,477)	(238,425)
Depreciation	(243,107)	(309,244)
Employee benefits	(2,433,724)	(2,164,930)
Finance costs	(29,877)	(20,680)
Fundraising expenses	(22,009)	(33,277)
Lease payments for short-term/low value leases	(23,360)	(17,185)
Program costs	(109,108)	(104,911)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(3,170,167)</b>	<b>(2,889,041)</b>
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus for the year</b>	<b>(104,254)</b>	<b>(585,677)</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus after income tax</b>	<b>(104,254)</b>	<b>(585,677)</b>
Other comprehensive (loss)/income	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE LOSS</b>	<b>(104,254)</b>	<b>(585,677)</b>

# OUR BOARD

Story Factory is a not-for-profit association incorporated in New South Wales. We are governed by a board who bring a wealth of experience to the task.



**Gemma Salteri**  
**Chair**

Executive Director, CAGES Foundation & philanthropist. Philanthropy Australia's 2016 Emerging Philanthropist Award.



**Ali Green**  
**Deputy Chair**

CEO and co-founder of Pantera Press. 2023 Business Elite '40 under 40' and 2023 APAC Entrepreneur 'Most Dynamic Female Entrepreneur from Australia Spearheading Change.'



**Grant Lovett**  
**Treasurer**

Chartered accountant with more than 25 years in financial markets. Grant was also Chief of Staff to Treasurer Joe Hockey 2012-15, and most recently Head of Government and Regulatory Affairs at ASX.



**Katie Newton-John**  
**Secretary**

General Counsel and Company Secretary at Levande.



**Dr Amy Thunig**

Academic in the field of education, and author of *Tell Me Again: a memoir*. Amy is a proud Gomeroi/Kamilaroi person.



**Benjamin Law**

Writer, columnist, social commentator, screenwriter and author.



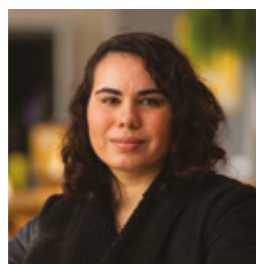
**Dr Cath Keenan AM**  
**Co-founder & Executive Director**

Former journalist, 2016 Australian of the Year Local Hero.



**David Hua**

Director of Audio and Language Content at SBS.



**Garigarra Mundine**

A proud Wiradjuri, Bundjalung, Kamilaroi and Yuin woman who works at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



**James Argent**

Partner at the Boston Consulting Group.



**Murat Dizdar**

Secretary of the NSW Department of Education. Former teacher and principal, awarded Australia Day Public Service Medal in 2016.



**Nick Carney**

Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills.



“

*there's something so tragically romantic about hand-picking flowers,*

*how we kill and kidnap what we cherish and offer it to those we love.*

*you're allowed to be jealous of the dead.*

*you're allowed to turn your heartbreak into hope.*

*you're allowed to dismount your moth-self from their grasp.*

*you're allowed to move out, and move on.*

*you're allowed to grow after they've cut you.*

**By BEA**

BEA, a poet of subversion, survival and sass, uses poetry as both first aid and ammunition in the ongoing battle that is life.

**2024 will be the second year of our five-year strategy 2023-27, and we have many exciting plans. Our focus will be on extending our reach through our digital and in-person programs, and ensuring we deepen relationships within our core communities.**

Some of the things we're excited about in 2024 include:

- Sharing the results of the independent evaluation of our 2023 Year of the Novella and Year of Poetry programs. The evaluation looked specifically at the wellbeing benefits of these writing programs; we plan to use the results to optimise the wellbeing benefits of all our writing programs in 2024;
- Free to Fashion, a special collaboration with The Social Outfit, exploring clothes and fashion and culminating in a publication and showcase event at Carriageworks;
- Growing engagement with our alumni as we support them to continue their writing careers;
- Laying the groundwork to open a Community Hub in Mt Druitt in 2025;
- Extending the reach of our digital programs, including by producing on-demand video and other resources for teachers to use;
- Deepening our engagement with our regular residency schools by offering them additional opportunities and working more closely with teachers.

We sincerely thank all our community partners and donors for making our work possible. We couldn't do it without you!



## OUR KEY STRATEGIC PILLARS



**1** Amplifying young people's voices and growing impact, particularly in Western Sydney.

**2** National reach through digital programs.

**3** Diversity - stronger engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and ensuring more diversity in our staff and volunteers.

**4** Having the right people and structures to support growth and renewal.

**5** Ensuring we align how the organisation measures success with where we're headed.



## REDFERN

176 Redfern Street  
Redfern NSW 2016  
Gadigal Land  
02 9699 6970

## PARRAMATTA

90 George Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150  
Burramattagal Land  
02 8859 0353

**STORYFACTORY.ORG.AU**

## GET INVOLVED AT



Story Factory is fully compliant with all requirements of The Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission, the national regulator of charities. We are a registered charity with DGR-1 status - all donations are tax-deductible.

ABN: 71 645 321 582

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