

# The Story Island Project Annual Report 2020



*Building confidence and creativity through story*

## **From our students...**

*It was fun to say ideas and not get laughed at.*

Student (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School

*The best thing [about Story Island] was using our creative minds.*

Student (Grade 5/6), Goodwood Primary School

*It was amazing work.*

Student (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School

*I had the chance to get better at drawing.*

Student (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School

*Story Island has made me more confident with my creativity skills.*

Student (Grade 5/6), Goodwood Primary School

*It's a lot of fun. It's creative.*

Student (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School

*The encouragement [from my volunteer tutor] was helpful.*

Student (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School

*Everyone gets to do their own thing and it's fun.*

Student (Grade 5/6), Goodwood Primary School

*The drawing part was calming.*

Student (Grade 5/6), Goodwood Primary School

*The best things [about Story Island] were working with the volunteers on our table and putting our imaginations on paper.*

Student (Grade 5/6, Goodwood Primary School)

*The people at my table were very encouraging and very helpful.*

Student (Grade 5/6), Goodwood Primary School

*I loved doing lots of new and cool things!*

Student (Grade 5/6), Goodwood Primary School

## **Our mission**

The Story Island Project is a Hobart-based 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, Story Island runs free, dynamic storytelling workshops where young people are empowered to create their own stories.

Our focus is on those who are often overlooked, who may experience poverty and disadvantage, or are marginalised in other ways.

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

As an organisation we hold the values of compassion, optimism, fairness, creativity and humour, and we weave them into the work we do.

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. Every morning, too many 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 to disadvantaged schools, where young people get individualised support from our expert story leaders and volunteer tutors.

## **The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Incorporated**

**Mailing address:** 41 Leonard Avenue, Moonah 7009

**Phone:** 0409 856 979

**ABN:** 81 478 918 677

**TFN:** 988 827 366

**Incorporation number:** IA11920

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



## Meet the volunteers: Asif

Like the rest of us, Asif's 2020 was turned upside down by COVID-19. Not only did it create obstacles to finding a job in his chosen field (he has a Master of Professional Accounting), but it also meant he had to cancel plans to return to his home country to meet his baby daughter!

While Asif is a numbers man, he also has a passion to see young people succeed in life, and volunteers for a number of community organisations. This passion led him to begin volunteering with Story Island at the start of 2020.

'I have learned a lot from experiences throughout my life, therefore I wanted to pay back to the community,' says Asif.

'Story Island is a platform which provided me an opportunity to transfer my skills to the young generation.'

We asked Asif what his favourite thing was about being a Story Island Volunteer. Here's what he had to say:

*Story Island is an opportunity to meet with kids to help them to learn skills like reading and writing ...building their confidence to communicate effectively and encouraging them to come up with their own creative ideas.*

Volunteers are at the heart of Story Island's school workshops: our fantastic volunteer tutors sit alongside young people in these workshops, to nurture their creativity and writing skills.

## President's Report

*Unexpected twists in the plot!*

For the Story Island Project, 2020 looked set to be a year of relatively straightforward story writing, consolidating programs, and building on our strengths.

However, as in all good stories, there was a most unexpected twist, with the spread of the COVID19 pandemic and the community lockdown and closure of schools that soon followed.

However, our founding heroes, Emily Bullock and Kate Gross were equal to any challenge and soon adapted their program to suit the new online working conditions, seeking out different opportunities to work with students and to support schools and teachers.

But the upheaval caused by the pandemic also gave everyone pause for thought. And thus it was that Emily and Kate both independently decided to step back a little from program delivery, asking the Board to split their tasks and to look for extra employees.

There were extraordinarily strong fields for both advertised positions and the Board was fortunate indeed to add Daniel Townsend and Ruth Thomas to our list of protagonists.

Thank you to all four of our employees for their commitment and energy – you have been inspiring and a joy to work with!

Thank you once again to our wonderful volunteers – you are the heart of our program, the feature that sets Story Island apart – it can make such a difference to the students' confidence and capacity to write when they have the opportunity to think, draw, write and laugh in a trusted small group with a trained and encouraging adult there to support their efforts.

The Story Island Project Board has continued to grow and develop. Thank you to Frances Butler, who brought her enthusiasm and knowledge of the arts scene to the Board. And thank you too to Michelle Forbes, who also brought great knowledge of the arts, as well as her wonderful administrative understanding and who shared all this so generously before her move to Melbourne.

Another subplot caused by this year's pandemic has been the need to concentrate on our risk management policies and practices; Louise Mills has been a wonderful leader in this aspect of our operations, whilst Heather Chong has been stalwart in cheerfully overseeing our increasingly complicated financial management.

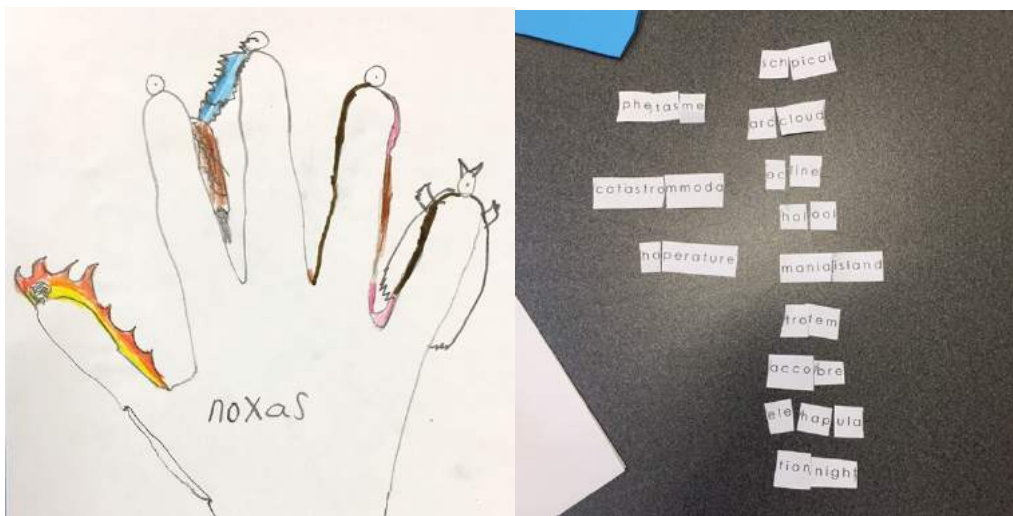
We have also been lucky enough to welcome to the Board Alice Grubb, with her legal and teaching expertise, Adam Potito with his education lens and his strategic thinking capacities, and Michelle Folder, who brings many strategic skills, including an excellent understanding of fundraising principles and practices.

The Board's challenge for the coming year is to concentrate on sustainability. We particularly need to find accommodation and to work on fundraising to ensure the ongoing viability of this fabulous project so that we can continue to develop and grow our capacity to deliver exciting and valuable programs for Tasmanian students.

Thank you to Arts Tasmania for their ongoing support.

Next chapter: momentum gathers, the challenges continue...

Lynne Hanlon  
President



### **From our teachers...**

*My students were excited for Story Island. I think it was because it wasn't seen as a 'writing task' and they were working towards an end goal.*

Teacher (Grade 5/6), Goodwood Primary School

*Hesitant students were attempting all tasks and completing them with enthusiasm.*

Teacher (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School

*All students were thoroughly engaged in all aspects of writing. They were more actively using their imagination to be creative.*

Teacher (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School

*Daniel was a very engaging educator and really took the time to establish positive relationships with students.*

Teacher (Grade 4/5), Goodwood Primary School



## Meet the volunteers: Ruby

Creativity and mentoring have been part of Ruby's life for many years. As well as being a professional musician—performing under the name *Austin*—Ruby is also a singing and piano teacher. So last year when Ruby stumbled across Story Island's callout for new volunteer tutors, she thought it sounded like the perfect opportunity to combine her talents and make a difference in the lives of young people, while helping to fill all the spare time she had due to COVID restrictions on live performance.

Ruby began as a volunteer tutor with Story Island in Term 4, 2020. She says that her favourite thing about being a volunteer tutor is 'hearing all of the kids' great ideas and how imaginative they are'.

'Sometimes I have to hold back because the programs inspire my imagination and I end up wanting to complete my own project too!' she says.

Ruby has noticed how working with the same students each week across Story Island's eight-week school storytelling programs allows volunteers to get to know students' personalities and needs really well; volunteers can then work out exactly how to support students to help them reach their goals:

*It is only a small thing but one session a student didn't seem like herself, and I found out she had had her braces tightened on her teeth and was in a lot of pain so she couldn't really focus. I could relate, having had braces on twice myself, so I was able to help by working closely with her to complete her story.*

## 2020 Programs

Expect the unexpected: that was our 2020 story. But 'unexpected' isn't always bad: amid unexpected the challenges that 2020 threw at us, there were many unexpected opportunities, and the Story Island team finished 2020 with pride at what we (and our students!) were able to achieve, gratitude towards those who supported us, and optimism for the new year ahead.

In a year when much of our planned activities were postponed due to COVID, over 100 young people directly benefitted from Story Island's limited 2020 programs, conducted when possible in person at schools around greater Hobart, and online during the COVID lockdown period.

### Stories Sown, Stories Grown 2 (February–March, October–December)

Stories Sown, Stories Grown 2 was Story Island's major program for 2020, funded by Arts Tasmania through the Minister for the Arts. The originally planned program involved three separate workshop series, scheduled for delivery at five primary schools around greater Hobart across the 2020 school year:

- Sense in Nonsense (8 x 90-minute weekly workshop sessions)
- A Trunk Full of Stories (8 x 90-minute weekly workshop sessions)
- Global Story Club (8 x 90-minute one-off sessions)

However, due to COVID restrictions, we were only able to deliver one program, Sense in Nonsense, to four classes at two schools: Glenorchy Primary School (Term 1) and Goodwood Primary School (Term 4). The remainder of the programs have been rescheduled for 2021.

### Sense in Nonsense

Sense in Nonsense is a workshop package delivered weekly to classes over 8 weeks. The workshops include fun activities that encourage young people to have fun experimenting with language and illustration, with each student developing a large-format postcard that tells the story of a nonsense island they've created, inhabited by nonsense creatures that speak a nonsense language. The resulting creative pieces are published as a class anthology.





## People involved

Story Island staff (2; 4 in Term 4)

Glenorchy Primary School: two classes (English as an Additional Language class; Grade 5/6)

Goodwood Primary School: two classes (Grade 4/5; Grade 5/6)

Volunteer tutors: Story Island recruited, screened and trained 37 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.



Sense in Nonsense workshop at Goodwood Primary, Term 4, 2020

## Outcomes

84 students engaged in this program, and three anthologies of student work were produced for students celebrate their achievements through the programs over the year.

## Covid-19 Interruption

On 17 March 2020, we suspended our Arts Tasmania-funded programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To that date, we had delivered 4 weeks of our 8-week Term 1 programs. To complete these programs, we created short videos and resources so that class teachers could support students to finish their pieces.

With a COVID Safety Plan in place, we resumed our in-school Sense in Nonsense program in Term 4, 2020 (October).

We observed the following benefits to the students who took part in Sense in Nonsense:

- Creative agency: enhanced skills and greater confidence in writing and creative storytelling
- Positive relationships: opportunities to work with artists and skilled mentors
- Accessible and inclusive arts programming: engagement in free, high-quality publishing projects
- Social health and wellbeing: engagement in safe, supported environments to build

empowerment, capacity and self-esteem.

In addition, feedback surveys that participating students (n= 33) at Goodwood Primary at the end of the full eight-week program showed the following outcomes:

- 94% of students enjoyed the workshops 'a lot' or thought they were 'pretty good'
- 94% of students felt 'supported' or 'very supported' in the workshops
- 78% of students felt more confident to be creative after participating in the Story Island workshop program.



The many faces of 'finished': Goodwood Primary students and Story Island staff celebrate students' work at the end of the Sense in Nonsense program, December 2020

## **The Story Island Project Automatic Original Story Generator (April–May)**

When Tasmania went into lockdown, we REALLY wanted to inspire young people to have fun with creative writing while they were stuck at home. So, we brought the *Story Island Automatic Original Story Generator* to life! The *Story Generator* is a 24-page booklet that brings together a batch of fun creative writing starters and tips that we developed and trialled with the Bayview Association of schools (on Hobart's eastern shore) in 2019 – with great success.

We commissioned illustrator Leigh Rigozzi to complete the design and layout of the booklet. We then distributed the booklet to our network of schools and community groups, including Goodwood Community House and West Moonah Neighbourhood House, who in turn distributed it to local families in their lockdown activity packs.

### **People involved**

Story Island staff (2)

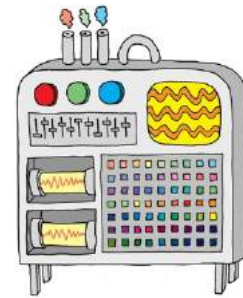
Leigh Rigozzi, illustrator

Bayview Association of Schools

King Island District School

Springfield Gardens Primary School

Mountain Heights Primary School  
Moonah Primary School  
West Moonah Neighbourhood House  
Glenorchy Primary School  
Cosgrove High School  
Montrose Bay High School  
Commissioner for Children  
Communities for Children



## Outcomes

The *Story Island Automatic Original Story Generator* activity booklet was directly distributed to a dozen schools and community centres located in disadvantaged areas across Tasmania, allowing young people to continue to access fun and quality writing opportunities during the COVID-19 lockdown. The booklet was designed to be accessed as a hard copy booklet by students aged 7–13, as it became apparent that students in disadvantaged areas often did not have access to online resources during their time learning at home.

School teachers commented that the booklet allowed students to keep working at their own pace while in lockdown at home, but also provided teachers with a useful and flexible resource for when school resumed.



Schools and community organisations like West Moonah Neighbourhood House (pictured above) included the 'Story Generator' in lockdown activity packs sent out to families

## MRC Storytelling Competition (May–June)

In May, we were thrilled to join a number of local community organisations to support Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania's 2020 Storytelling Competition. This competition was open to young Tasmanians with refugee backgrounds, who could submit stories in the medium of their choice – entries included written stories, video, art and comics.

Story Island's program coordinator Emily was on the judging panel for the competition; winners were announced as part of MRC's Refugee Week celebrations in June. Story Island

sponsored an exciting prize for winners of the 6–9 years and 10–13 years age categories: individual online mentoring sessions with Grace Williams, founder and director of Citizen Tasmania.

### People involved

Story Island staff (Program Coordinator)  
Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania  
Grace Williams, Citizen Tasmania  
Glenorchy City Council  
Hobart City Council  
Wide Angle Tasmania

### Outcomes

Story Island collaborated with project partners to devise the entry and judging guidelines for the MRC Tas Story Competition. Project partners actively supported young people from diverse cultural backgrounds to engage in the competition. Over 20 submissions were received from young people aged 6–18. Story Island contributed to the judging of 13 entries in two age categories and sponsored prizes for the 6–9 years and 10–13 years age categories. Winning entries were celebrated publicly online throughout Refugee Week, through project partners' websites and social media.

Grace Williams delivered two individualised mentoring sessions with the winning storytellers in the 6–9 and 10–13 years age categories.



The winning entry from the 10–13 years category was a comic by Ayub, about his favourite Ethiopian food, *feit feit*

### National Geographic Kids storytelling competition (July–August)

In mid-2020, Story Island partnered with *National Geographic Kids* magazine on a short story writing competition, with the theme of 'risk'. Young writers from across Australia and New Zealand were invited to write a story of no more than 300 words that featured a character taking a risk, or being in a risky situation. Story Island developed the theme and writing tips

for this writing competition. The top three stories (as judged by author Sue Whiting) were published in subsequent editions of *National Geographic Kids*.

### **People involved**

Story Island staff (1)

*National Geographic Kids* editorial staff

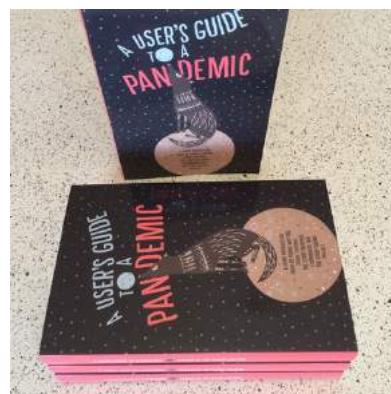
Sue Whiting, author

### **Outcomes**

Over 400 entries were submitted to the competition; Story Island staff helped to process and shortlist submissions for final judging. Winning entries were celebrated publicly in a number of ways: winners' stories were published in *National Geographic Kids* magazine, while stories by the runners up were published on the *National Geographic Kids* website.

## **A User's Guide to a Pandemic (May–November)**

2020 was certainly a year like no other, and there were so many hard things about that, particularly for young people. But one of the silver linings in the cloud of 2020 was that there were lots of unusual experiences to write about! In Term 2, Story Island was invited to team up with a number of other storytelling organisations around Australia—Story Factory in New South Wales, 100 Story Building in Melbourne and Byron Bay's StoryBoard—to work on a writing project that explored young people's reflections and creative responses to living through COVID-19. We called it *A User's Guide to a Pandemic*.



In Term 2, we invited young Tasmanians to submit pieces of writing to this once-in-a-generation national publication. We selected and edited the Tasmanian submissions and sent them to 100 Story Building to be included in the final collection, which was released online in August and in print (published by Hardie Grant) in November. Author Markus Zusak wrote an introduction for the collection.

### **People involved**

Story Island staff (1)

100 Story Building, Melbourne

Story Factory, Sydney

StoryBoard, Byron Bay

Project participants

### **Outcomes**

*A User's Guide to a Pandemic* was initially published online on the writing centres' websites and then as a print publication, available to purchase directly through the writing centres and at selected book shops throughout Australia. The public profile and timeliness of this project supports young authors to view their writing as relevant and valuable.



## Meet the volunteers: Karen

Karen works as a health and education researcher at the University of Tasmania, and began volunteering in Story Island's school workshops in 2019.

Karen says she began volunteering with Story Island because she worked from home, but loved being around people, so 'volunteering with Story Island was a great way to have a bit of balance between the two'.

'My role as a volunteer is mainly to encourage students and to be someone that they can bounce their ideas off... I try to encourage them to have fun with the activities, give it a go and just see where things go from there', Karen says.

'I think it's really important that young people feel confident to tell their own stories so they can have a hand in shaping the world they want to live in.'

We asked Karen what her favourite thing was about being a Story Island Volunteer. Here's what she had to say:

*I really like all the different sorts of energy you get in the room during a workshop, from the slightly chaotic buzz when people are working out what to do and brainstorming their ideas to the (rarer) hushed focus when they have settled on a direction and are absorbed in getting it all down on paper.*

*It's great too when I get the opportunity to work with the same group of students over a period of weeks, to get to know them a little and how they work best and to see their confidence grow.*

## Organisational development

### Operations

While planning for future program deliver during our 'COVID pause' in mid-2020, Story Island made the big decision to recruit two new staff members, splitting our operational roles and existing funding across four individuals employed at 0.2FTE, rather than the existing two staff roles (Program Coordinator Emily Bullock and Executive Officer Kate Gross) at 0.4FTE.

Spreading these roles across four staff members rather than the original two has allowed the organisation to develop more distinct operational roles and better plan for future growth.

As of 1 October 2020, Story Island employed four staff members to a total of 0.8 FTE in the following roles:

Program Manager: 0.2 FTE

Story Leader: 0.4 FTE

Executive Officer: 0.2 FTE

Volunteer Coordinator: 0.2 FTE

We were delighted to welcome Ruth Thomas (Volunteer Coordinator) and Daniel Townsend (Story Leader) to the Story Island team at the beginning of Term Four, 2020!



The Story Island team (from left): Emily Bullock, Kate Gross, Ruth Thomas, Daniel Townsend

## Volunteer recruitment and training

In our largest recruitment campaign to date, Story Island recruited, screened and trained 37 people to be volunteer tutors for our 2020 in-school programs. Induction sessions for new volunteers were held in February and November.



Volunteer tutor induction session, February 2020

Volunteer tutors are assigned to small groups of students within Story Island's weekly school workshops, developing positive relationships where tutors provide individualised support and encouragement to students, so students can gain maximum benefit from the program.

On average, eight volunteers attended each school workshop in 2020, achieving an average volunteer–student ratio of 1:2.5.



We finished the 'volunteer year' with a celebratory morning tea on 15 December, to thank our wonderful volunteer tutors for their contribution to Story Island in 2020. And we had double reason to celebrate: on 7 December, volunteer tutor Xiaoxiao Xu was named the winner of the Education, Science and Technology Award at Volunteering Tasmania's 2020 Tasmanian Volunteer Awards! We're so grateful to each of our volunteer tutors for sharing their time, commitment and creativity with Story Island... and above all, with our students!

Kate Gross (left) and Xiaoxiao Xu celebrating Xiaoxiao's win at the 2020 Tasmanian Volunteer Awards (Government House Reception held January 2021)



## Governance

### Office Bearers 2020

**President** Lynne Hanlon

**Senior Vice President** Louise Mills

**Vice President** Andy Vagg

**Secretary** Michelle Forbes

**Treasurer/Public Officer** Heather Chong

### General Board Members

Frances Butler (to June 2020)

Alice Grubb

Michelle Folder (from October 2020)

Adam Potito

### Annual General Meeting

Story Island held its Annual General Meeting on 26 February 2020, electing office bearers for the year ahead and receiving the 2018–19 Annual Report. The 2018–19 Annual Report covered the period of transition from Story Island's financial year ending on 30 June, to following a calendar year (ending on 31 December).

In 2020, we welcomed new members Michelle Forbes, Michelle Folder, Alice Grubb and Adam Potito to the Board, while bidding a fond thankyou and farewell to Frances Butler. To establish a clear separation between the Board and operational staff, Emily Bullock and Kate Gross stepped down from the Board at the AGM, to attend future Board meetings as ex-officio members.



Story Island 2020 Board (from left): Louise Mills, Lynne Hanlon, Andy Vagg, Alice Grubb, Michelle Forbes, Heather Chong, Andy Vagg (absent: Frances Butler, Michelle Folder)

## **Strategic Planning**

On 4 March, the Story Island Board held its annual strategic planning session. Facilitated by former Board member Mel Maddock, in this session the Board reviewed and amended the Story Island Strategic Plan established in early 2019, and extended its scope to cover 2020–2022. The Board also reviewed and amended the existing Action Plan, identifying priority items for the next 12 months. In addition, the board reflected on Story Island’s organisational culture, identifying the values of compassion, optimism, fairness, creativity and humour as the key values we wish to weave into the work we do.

## **Sourcing funds**

### **Arts Tasmania**

In late 2019, Story Island secured 12-month organisational funding of \$70,000 from Arts Tasmania, to fund our 2020 program delivery. As part of Arts Tasmania’s Cultural and Creative Industries Stimulus Package announced in May 2020, organisations on a single-year funding package, and those in the final year of agreements under the Arts Tasmania Organisations Program, had their contracts extended for another year. This will allow Story Island to deliver programs in 2021 that were postponed in 2020, and to deliver new and existing programs to additional schools.

We are grateful to Arts Tasmania for their generous support of Story Island and other Tasmanian artists and arts organisations during these uncertain times.

### **Funding for COVID programs**

To fund the development and delivery of our alternative programs during the COVID lockdown period, we sought donations from Tasmanian MPs, receiving \$7,700 in donations and discretionary grants.

### **Australian Government Volunteer Grants Program**

In 2020 we secured \$1980 in funding through the Australian Government’s Volunteer Grants Program, to support volunteer involvement in Story Island’s school workshop programs.

## **From our volunteer tutors...**

*Volunteers have built up a really good connection with students... students are much more open to us compared to the session when we first met them. They are more willing to share their ideas and stories, and I can see a lot of smiles and happy faces when working with them.*

Volunteer tutor, March 2020

*[my student] preferred to talk to his cousin in Nepali. But after a few sessions, he became more confident and comfortable in speaking English, and he liked to share his ideas.*

Volunteer tutor, March 2020

*I have noticed that MY self-confidence has improved... 'Making a difference' may be a common cliché, but the fulfilment and reward is that the program and my efforts... will aid students' development and growth in their literacy, creativity, and belief/pride in themselves.*

Volunteer tutor, November 2020

*One boy at my table was a bit shy at first. I encouraged him to think creatively by asking questions and then complimenting him on his ideas. He gradually picked up confidence and started to think more imaginatively.*

Volunteer tutor, November 2020

*I could indeed see changes in the students, especially in the middle and late stages of the program. The students seemed to be more confident... and more willing to share their work to the other classmates.*

Volunteer tutor, December 2020

*I had one student who would generally be expected to finish last and lag behind actually forge ahead and finish his postcard first and to a high standard.*

Volunteer tutor, December 2020

*All to know my students and support them was an amazing experience and I think I was as sad as they were to see me go.*

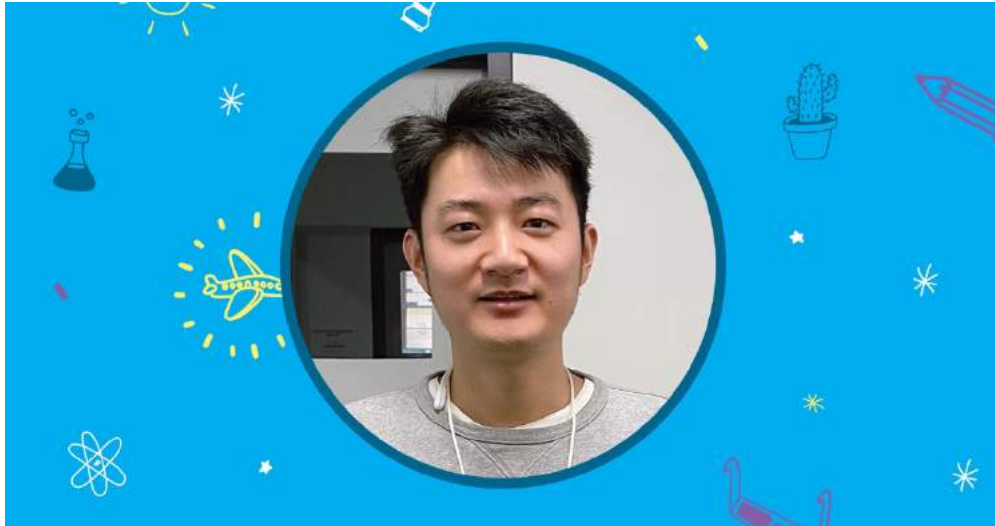
Volunteer tutor, December 2020

*Getting to know my students and support them was an amazing experience and I think I was as sad as they were to see me go.*

Volunteer tutor, December 2020

*Story Island did a fantastic job preparing me for the workshops and the experience in general. The information session at the beginning of the project and the weekly emails made me feel incredibly well prepared to step into the classroom.*

Volunteer tutor, December 2020



## Meet the volunteers: Ming

Ming found out about Story Island through one of his uni classmates, who was already a Story Island volunteer tutor. He said that the idea appealed to him because of his interest in 'drawing and unconstrained imagination'. Ming started volunteering in our 'Sense in Nonsense' school workshop program in Term 1, 2020.

At first, Ming said that he was surprised at just how creative young people's imaginations could be. 'The answers given by students often exceed the answers I expect,' he says. 'I think they are more creative than adults!'

Ming loves supporting young people as they see their creative storytelling pieces through from start to finish. 'When helping young people complete their creations, I see happy and proud expressions on their faces, and I also feel a sense of accomplishment,' Ming says.

In his personal life, Ming enjoyed a sense of accomplishment last year when he taught himself to swim.

'I couldn't swim before I came to Hobart,' he says, 'I watched YouTube videos and then went to Hobart Aquatic Centre to practice.'

'Now I have learned breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle.'

Ming puts his strengths of perseverance and creativity to great use in Story Island workshops, encouraging students not to give up on their projects, even when they don't turn out as originally planned:

*In one workshop, I remember that a student was drawing a shark postcard. The shark's mouth ended up taking up half of the postcard, and the student wanted to give up. I encouraged him to continue with the drawing because it was actually better than drawing the whole shark. Only half of the shark is more visually impactful.*

## Financial report 2020

### Statement of Attestation

The financial statements for The Story Island Project are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with Australian Accounting standards to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ending 31 December 2020, and the financial position as at end of that year.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the Financial Statements misleading or inaccurate.



**Lynne Hanlon**  
President



**Heather Chong**  
Treasurer

# **The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc.**

A.B.N. 81 478 918 677

## **Financial Report**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

**Accru.**<sup>+</sup>

Hobart

**Business + Personal + Financial Solutions**

Sydney + Melbourne + Brisbane + Perth + Adelaide + **Hobart**

**Location:** Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018

**Telephone:** +61 3 6244 5044

## **The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc.**

# **Table of Contents**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

3	Profit & Loss
4	Balance Sheet
5	Notes to the Financial Statements
6	Officers' Assertion Statement
7	Board Members' List
8	Auditor's Independence Declaration
9	Independent Auditor's Report

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# Story Island Project

41 Leonard Avenue  
Moonah, Tasmania 7009  
Australia

## Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

January 2020 To December 2020

ABN: 81 478 918 677

	This Year	Last Year
<b>Income</b>		
Stories of the Brooker Highway	\$0.00	\$10.00
Street Library Project	\$0.00	\$1,057.40
The Unconformity	\$0.00	\$8,060.00
DSS Volunteer Grant	\$1,800.00	\$4,100.00
Arts Tas Stories Sown II	\$107,953.14	\$2,128.20
Stories Sown Income	\$0.00	\$27,119.49
Sundry Income	\$5,203.82	\$30.01
Donations	\$3,602.88	\$0.00
Bank Interest	\$0.00	\$11.91
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$118,559.84</b>	<b>\$42,517.01</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$118,559.84</b>	<b>\$42,517.01</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Grant Expenses</b>		
DSS Volunteers	\$1,042.93	\$2,917.04
Youth Arts Program		
YAP Program Manager	\$14,183.92	\$16,700.00
YAP Visual Artist Fee	\$3,200.00	\$2,490.73
YAP Executive Officer	\$16,047.26	\$9,610.32
YAP Project & Prodn w/shop mat	\$474.66	\$1,199.81
YAP Marketing and Promotion	\$352.47	\$518.60
YAP Project & Prodn (docs)	\$0.00	\$566.87
YAP Project & Prodn pubn	\$249.88	\$0.00
YAP Project & Prodn Vol costs	\$406.68	\$163.26
YAP Admin Costs	\$602.27	\$0.00
YAP Project & Prodn Evaluation	\$0.00	\$4,772.73
Volunteer Coordinator	\$2,791.20	\$0.00
Story Leader	\$3,206.70	\$0.00
Superannuation	\$3,269.49	\$437.98
<b>Total Grant Expenses</b>	<b>\$45,827.46</b>	<b>\$39,377.34</b>
<b>Administration Expenses</b>		
Web site and domain	\$0.00	\$346.52
Insurance	\$1,599.47	\$1,057.10
Admin costs	\$1,386.20	\$887.67
Sydney PD	\$669.02	\$0.00
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,654.69</b>	<b>\$2,291.29</b>
<b>Alternate Programming</b>	<b>\$2,839.75</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$52,321.90</b>	<b>\$41,668.63</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$66,237.94</b>	<b>\$848.38</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$66,237.94</b>	<b>\$848.38</b>

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.



## Story Island Project

41 Leonard Avenue  
Moonah, Tasmania 7009  
Australia

### Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]

December 2020

ABN: 81 478 918 677

	<b>This Year</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Bank of Us Community Advantage	\$106,883.11	\$77,273.12
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$106,883.11</b>	<b>\$77,273.12</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors	\$0.00	\$5,964.00
Superannuation payable	\$1,770.12	\$537.98
Salary Sacrifice	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
PAYG Payable	\$1,065.00	\$576.00
Arts Tasmania grant	\$0.00	\$2,531.51
Arts Tasmania II	\$25,450.17	\$60,871.80
GST Collected	\$7,020.06	\$0.00
GST Paid	-\$252.01	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$35,053.34</b>	<b>\$71,681.29</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$71,829.77</b>	<b>\$5,591.83</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	\$5,591.83	\$4,743.45
Current Year Earnings	\$66,237.94	\$848.38
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$71,829.77</b>	<b>\$5,591.83</b>

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

## **The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc.**

# **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

### **Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the charity is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The charity is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the Board has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with those of previous periods unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

#### **Significant Accounting Policies:**

**a) Income Tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

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# The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc.

## Officers' Assertion Statement

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The Board has determined that the charity is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

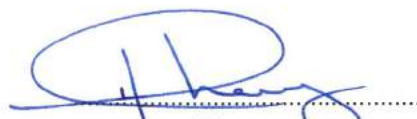
In the opinion of the Board, the attached financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc., as at 31 December 2020 and its performance for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020;
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

  
.....  
**President**

Dated: 31 / 3 / 21 .....

  
.....  
**Treasurer**

Dated: 31 / 3 / 21 .....

**Board members and roles (at 31 December 2020)**

Last name	First name	Board role	Residential address	Phone number	Date appointed	Date of resignation (if applicable)
Butler	Frances	General Member	11 Allambee Crescent, Glebe, 7000	0400 725 512	26/11/2018	26/08/2020
Chong	Heather	Treasurer	331 Fingerpost Road, Richmond 7025	0408 604 509	26/11/2018	
Folder	Michelle	General Member	93 Malunna Rd, Lindisfarne 7015	0402 837 947	28/10/2020	
Forbes	Michelle	Secretary	1/7 Una Street, Mount Stuart	0402 355 133	2/26/2020	
Grubb	Alice	General Member	56 Continental Road, Glenorchy	0420 982 237	2/26/2020	
Hanlon	Lynne	President	4 Dallas Avenue, Taroona, 7053	0427 279 291	20/07/2016	
Mills	Louise	<i>Sur Vice President</i>	26 Regent Street, Sandy Bay, 7005	0418 371 229	20/07/2016	
Potito	Adam	General Member	1 Park Road, Lindisfarne	0408 962 192	2/26/2020	
Vagg	Andy	<del>General Member</del> <i>Vice President</i>	1 Stonehaven Place, Derwent Park 7009	0409 595 795	11/26/2018	

**Ex-officio members**

Bullock	Emily	Ex-officio member	9 First Avenue, West Moonah, 7009	0405 177 057	3/26/2020	20/07/19
Gross	Kate	Ex-officio member	41 Leonard Avenue, Moonah, 7009	0409 856 979	3/26/2020	20/07/19

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Emily', is written over the number '1421'.

**The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc.**

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

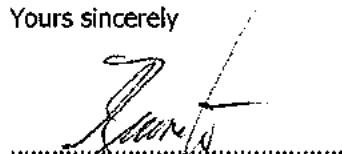
Dear Members

As auditor for the The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc. for the year ended 31 December 2020, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- 1) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- 2) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of the above-mentioned charity.

Yours sincerely



.....  
**Michael Burnett** B.Com.F.C.A.  
Registered Company Auditor: 281  
Partner  
Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018

Dated ..... 1, 4, 21 .....

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# Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc.

## Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc. (the Entity), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the profit and loss for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the officers' assertion statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at 31 December 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

## Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standard Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist The Story Island Project (Tasmania) Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

## Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

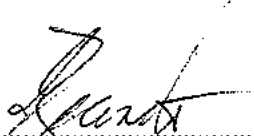
The Board is responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

  
.....  
**Michael Burnett** B.Com.F.C.A.  
Registered Company Auditor: 281  
Partner  
Level 1/18 Ross Avenue, Rosny Park TAS 7018

Dated ..... 1 / 4 / 21 .....