



Welcome to this edition of

In the Loop

bringing you updates, insights, and opportunities from across the creative community



WE FOUND OUR NEXT COORDINATOR!

By now, most of you will know that our wonderful Coordinator Sofija finished up in December. I'm sure we speak for everyone when we say we're grateful for all the energy and inspiration Sofija brought to KSP. Michaela first came on board at KSP as a Lit Com judge and the Youth Tutor in late 2025. She has since settled into the rhythm of life at the centre, and she'd like to thank everyone for their warm welcome and support as she learns the ropes.

We're looking forward to an excellent 2026, full of creativity and growth. See you soon at Katharine's Place!

Please join us in saying farewell to

Sofija Stevanovic

**KSP Writers' Centre
Coordinator Extraordinaire 2022-2026**

*We wish her happiness and success
in her next exciting chapter!*



*Sofija pictured
on right*



At the same time,
we're happy to welcome...

Michaela Ironwood

as KSP's new Coordinator

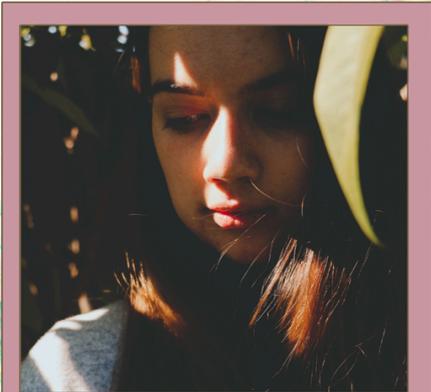


*Let's show Michaela a warm
welcome as she joins our team!*



Pictured above: Sofija Stevanovic (right) and Michaela Ironwood (left)

HAPPENING AT KSP



**The Art of Showing Up
with Liv Hartwig**

Sat, 14 Mar 2026 (2-4pm)



The Art of Showing Up with Liv Hartwig

Does the pressure to succeed stop you from writing?
Do you struggle to make time for writing on top of
your other commitments?

Tackle the 'write every day' culture with Liv Hartwig,
KSP Upcoming Writer-In-Residence this March, by
learning how to reframe consistency and explore
creative sustainability.

Liv Hartwig is a WA writer of speculative YA and
children's fiction. She has spent over a decade
learning tools and techniques to balance her
creative writing practice with other demands.

Date: Saturday, 14 March 2026

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Cost: \$25 KSP Members; \$35 non-members

Get Tickets



Telling Times

Are you looking for a cosy and inspiring Sunday
afternoon event?

Join award-winning writers **Carmel Macdonald
Grahame** and **Susan Midalia** as they read from
and discuss their collaborative work of poetry and
short stories.

This lovely session will be followed by afternoon tea,
with copies of the authors' books for sale.

When: Sunday, 15 March 2026

Time: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

**Where: KSP Writers' Centre Function
Room**

No RSVP Required



UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Author headshot by Lizzy C Photography

Writing Illness, Injuries and Healthcare with Tanya Scott

Sat, 18 April 2026 (2-4pm)

KSP Shire of MUNDARING act belong commit

Writing Illness, Injuries and Healthcare

Does your story feature a doctor or healthcare worker? Do you have a character with a disability or illness, or someone who sustains an injury?

Learn from a published author with real medical experience and approach your writing with confidence and authenticity.

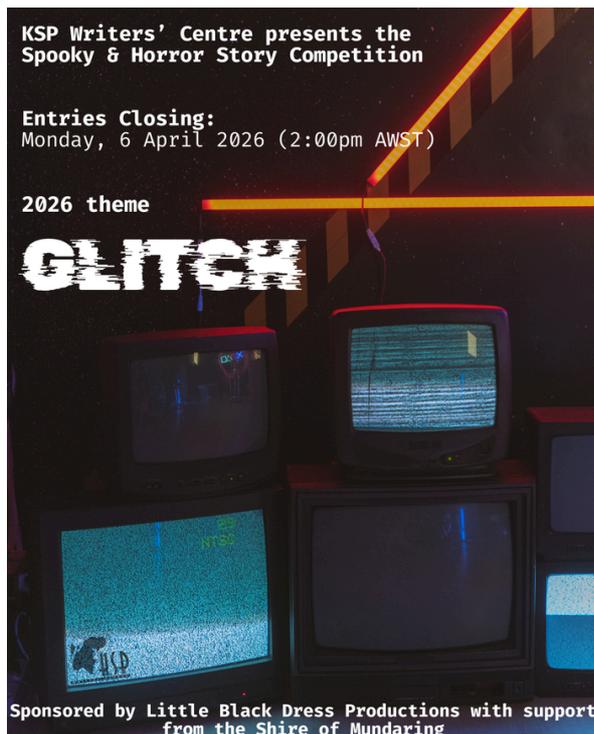
Tanya Scott is a writer, doctor and medical educator based on the Victorian Surf Coast. She writes character-driven fiction informed by years of working in mental health care, where patients have taught her more than any textbook.

Date: Saturday, 18 April 2026

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Cost: \$35 KSP Members; \$50 non-members

Get Tickets



KSP Writers' Centre presents the Spooky & Horror Story Competition

Entries Closing:
Monday, 6 April 2026 (2:00pm AWST)

2026 theme

GLITCH

Sponsored by Little Black Dress Productions with support from the Shire of Mundaring

KSP Writers' Centre Spooky Story Competition

There's still time to submit!

2026 Theme: GLITCH

Closing: Monday, 6 April 2026 (2:00pm AWST)

We are once again seeking original, unpublished stories that deliver chills, thrills, and unforgettable characters — with a strong beginning, middle, and end to keep readers hooked until the final twist.

After the massive success of last year's format, in 2026 we are continuing with three categories. So sharpen your pencils, steady your nerves, and get ready to scare us, we can't wait to read your spooky creations!

Word Counts & Fees

Youth under 12 years: 500 words max (free)

Teen 13-17 years: 1,000 words max (free)

Adult 18 years +): 2,500 words max (\$15)

Find Out More

January/February WiR's & Fellows 2025



Author headshot by Matthew Duchesne

Belinda Castles

KSP Writer-in-Residence

Belinda is an award-winning teacher of creative writing, with fifteen years of experience teaching at university and hosting workshops. She's also an award-winning novelist (Stella longlist, winner Asher and Australian-Vogel Literary Awards, Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Novelist) and the editor of Reading like an Australian Writer. Her latest book is *Walking Sydney: Fifteen walks with a city's writers*.



KSP Residency and Fellowship Program is generously supported by the Shire of Mundaring



Rachel Denham-White

KSP Writer-in-Residence

Rachel is an emerging writer living in Boorloo/Perth. In 2022, she graduated with her Bachelor of Arts (Hons), writing her dissertation on the Postfeminist Gothic movement in the works of her favourite author, Angela Carter. She is the Book Reviews Co-Editor of *Limina* journal and currently works for *Good Reading Magazine*. Rachel has been featured in many journals and anthologies. She is currently writing her debut horror novel.



KSP Residency and Fellowship Program is generously supported by the Shire of Mundaring



Danielle Cousin

KSP Writer-in-Residence

Danielle Cousin is a multi-genre fiction and nonfiction author. Her fiction writing specializes in erotic thrillers, psychological suspense, and mystery with a flair for immersive character perspectives and taboo-breaking themes. Danielle's nonfiction work draws from lived experience, offering heartfelt and practical insights into the emotional and physical realities of breast cancer and small business ownership.



KSP Residency and Fellowship Program is generously supported by the Shire of Mundaring

KSP Program Partners and Supporters:

Shire of Mundaring, Creative Australia, Tabetha Beggs of Little Black Dress Productions, Dragonfly Publishing and Flora Smith (RIP).

KSP CREATIVE CORNER

Welcome to KSP Creative Corner – an evolving series of writing prompts and opportunities to get your words featured in the newsletter (and beyond). As always, entry is free and there is no pressure to enter, just join in when the spark hits. And of course, we will showcase our favourite entry!

Thank you to all the writers who submitted their work for consideration in this newsletter. Read on to discover our favourite piece/s submitted and the prompt for next time.

STAFF PICKS

LAST PROMPT: "End of Beginning"

He's Growing on Me by Jessie Friday

One. Two...

The first time I saw him was an awkward moment. Lying on that table with my whale belly covered in goop.

...Twenty-eight. Twenty-nine...

And his timing was so bad. Arriving out of the blue like that, on the way to Sheila's Christmas party. I never did get to try her gingerbread trifle.

...Fifty-four. Fifty-five...

But he could always turn on the charm when he wanted. Even when he couldn't manage any words, his smile made everything AOK.

...Seventy. Seventy-one...

I admit I sometimes worry about him running out on me. Down the hall and nearly out the door before I realised he'd taken his first step.

...Ninety-nine. One hundred.

And I'm done. The stitches are cast on. His first school jumper is underway.

But that's enough. Mustn't get it wet.

Malice by Alwena Willis

Tahlia watched as she recorded her stepmother, Marcia, place something in a glass of champagne. Marcia's smile was cold as she handed the glass to Tahlia and flounced to the stage to announce the toast to her precious biological daughter. Tahlia placed the glass on the table bedside her and picked up her own drink.

'To Annabel, a daughter worthy of celebration.' Marcia called with her eyes on Tahlia, who, used to the malicious ways, sipped and returned the smile. Disappointment flashed across Marcia's face when nothing happened.

Just then, Annabel stood next to Tahlia, grabbed the glass from the table and smirked. 'To me,' she gloated and downed the glass before Tahlia could warn her. Annabel immediately collapsed.

Marcia screamed, rushed to Annabel with a look of realisation on her face.

Tahlia calmly walked out and did not look back.

PROMPT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: "Renewal"

For this issue, we invite you to explore the theme "Renewal". Your piece could be literal or metaphorical, grounded in realism or stretched into the fantastical. This prompt is open for interpretation, so let your imagination carry you on your writing journey!

Format: A poem, short story or hybrid piece (max 150 words)

Deadline: 31 March 2026 (2:00pm AWST)

Send to: community@kspwriterscentre.com

Please include the following in the body of your email (no attachments):

- The title of your piece
- Your written piece
- Your full name (or pen name)
- Your suburb and state
- Whether you are a Shire of Mundaring resident
- Your age (if under 18)

In the subject line of your email, write: Creative Corner Submission – [Month]
(e.g. Creative Corner Submission – November)

Please Note: Our favourite submission(s) will be published in the next KSP Newsletter, expected to be released in April. If your piece is selected, and you would like it to be featured on our social media channels (Instagram, Facebook) please include your social media handle(s) in the submission email as well. If no social media handles are provided, your work will still be eligible for the newsletter, but will not be published on our social platforms - **choosing to share your work on social media is completely optional and will not affect the selection process.**

We are looking for voices that move us, make us laugh, stir emotion, spark curiosity, or leave a lasting impression in just a few words. We can't wait to read what you create!

KSP COMMUNITY



Facilitator Needed

The **Past Tense Social History Writing Group** is looking for an enthusiastic volunteer facilitator to run their monthly group.

The right fit will be a writer of any level who loves working with people, has a strong interest in history and memoir, and is confident with basic admin duties.

Email your expression of interest and we will forward your details on.

office@kspwriterscentre.com





A Refresh in the Function Room!

For those who haven't seen the sneak peek or visited the centre yet, we're very excited to announce our newest addition to our function room.

Due to some generous funding, we've been lucky to start the year with a little refreshing at KSP Writers' Centre. Emma and Michaela got the tools out to assemble the new chairs, with another two boxes still to go!

We hope everyone attending writing groups, workshops, events and private bookings enjoy the comfort of these more sturdy and padded chairs. Stay tuned for other updates coming to KSP!

Thank you to the generosity of our donors who make upgrades like this possible. As a small non-for-profit organisation, we're grateful for every ounce of time, effort or money that comes our way.

You can become a Friend of Katharine too by making a tax-deductible online donation at the link below. Thank you for supporting our centre and all the wonderful people who meet here.

Friends of Katharine

KSP BLOG



C.A.A. Tasam

Caruso Writer-in-Residence Program

I began my two-week residency at Aldridge Cabin, set on the slope of a hill abundant in natural beauty. White gums sway gently in the breeze, quendas run through the tall brown grass, there is a bougainvillea bursting with bright pink flowers, and magpies wander amidst the green foliage. From my cabin at night, I could gaze out upon the twinkling lights of the city far below, mesmerised by this place where so many before me sojourned to put pen to paper.

A typical day would look like this: Rise whenever I woke up, write for an hour, have a coffee outside my cabin whilst basking in the glory of nature in the morning, continue writing until lunch, wash my dishes in Katharine’s house, do some more writing until late afternoon when I’d return to my own house up the road to assist my wife with our eight month old son’s night time routine, then return to my cabin for a final session of late writing. Some nights, I’d be up till twelve, and would rise at nine the next day. I really do think I’m more a night owl than a morning person. But as a new father, these two weeks were the best sleep I’ve had in eight months!

One of the most pleasant surprises for me was discovering the three journals left in my cabin from prior residents. These are a treasure trove of wisdom and experience for all budding writers. I took much solace from the knowledge that, like me, almost every other writer suffers doubt and goes through long periods of staring into empty space. Yes, that’s part of the creative process. Some great wisdom I took away was that a high word count was not the mark of a successful residency, but rather, it was how you felt when you reached the end.

Over these past two weeks I finished my fourth draft, sent it to beta readers, and have begun querying agents. I also received my first rejection. It has all been part of the journey, but what a journey it has been, and I owe a great deal of thanks to the Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers’ Centre, Sofija and Emma, and the Caruso Writer-in-Residence Program.

Indeed, writing is a journey, and as they say, it’s about the journey, not the destination. I have loved writing this book. I have lived in my secondary world. I have been those characters. I have loved and laughed and cried with them. They are me and I am them. To write is to experience many other lives. And such an experience enriches our own.

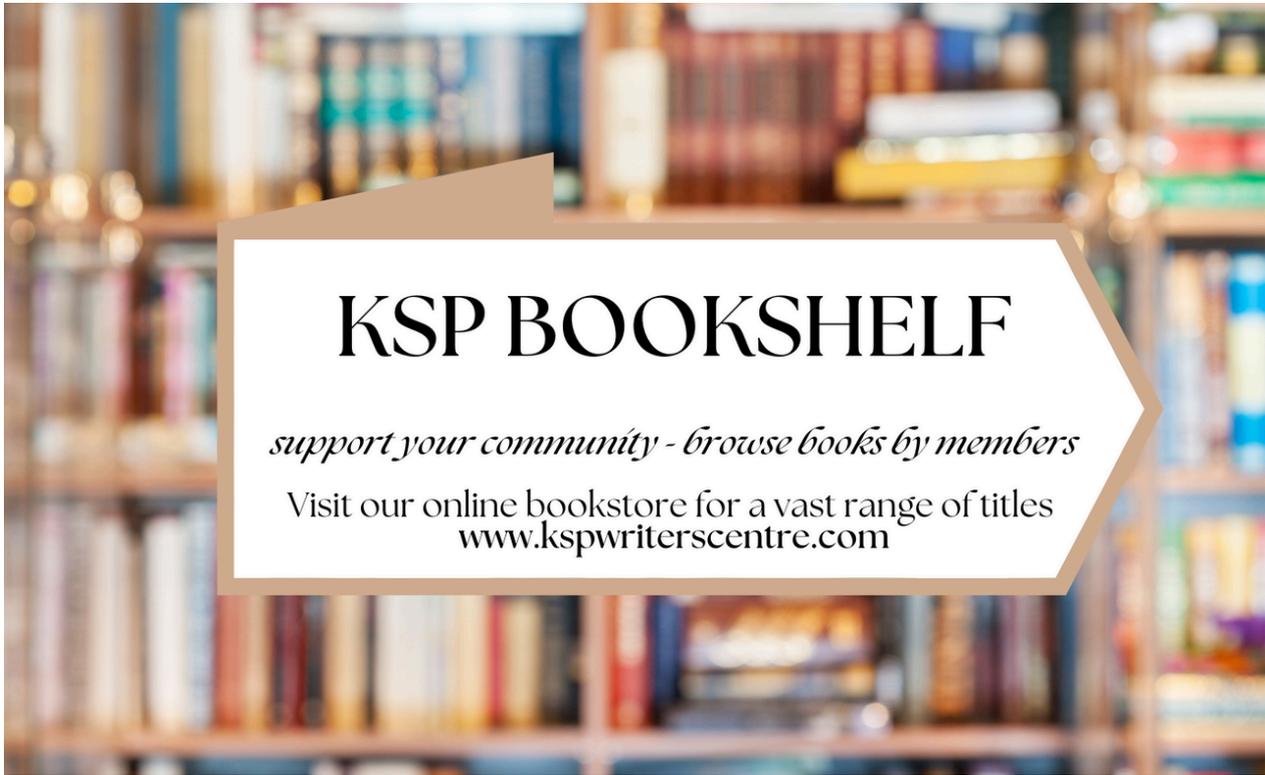
C.A.A. Tasam *crossed the Indian Ocean in his mother's tummy, to be raised on the sun-blessed shores of Western Australia. He's climbed the tallest mountain in Africa, written (and starred in) a play for the Perth Fringe Festival, and has proudly served in the Australian Army Reserves. His debut novel, Across the Lunar Sea, is the first in an epic fantasy trilogy about eastern and western worlds colliding amidst questions of death and resurrection. He currently lives in Perth with his wife and their collection of pot plants.*

KSP BOOKSHELF

Latest Member Releases and New Additions

Are you a **KSP member, Writer-in-Residence Alumni or a Friend of Katharine?** *Email us* details of your latest publication so we can share the news.

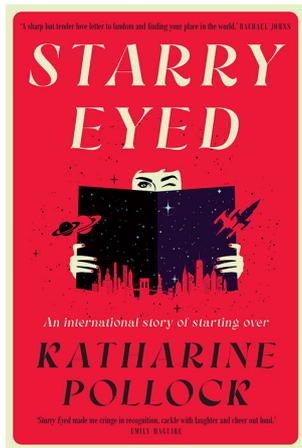
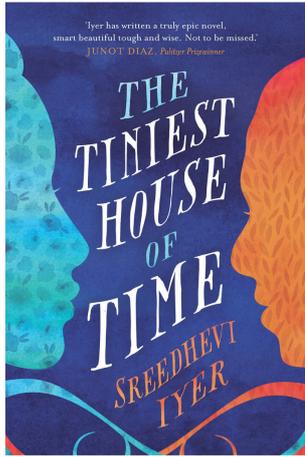
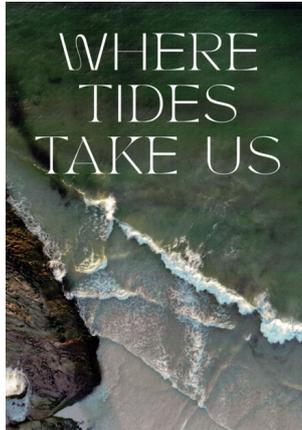
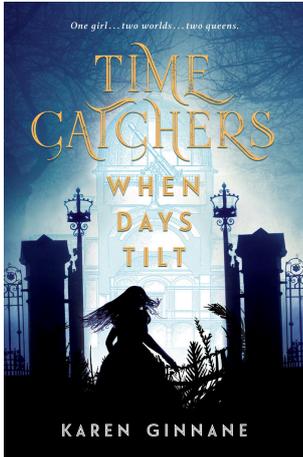
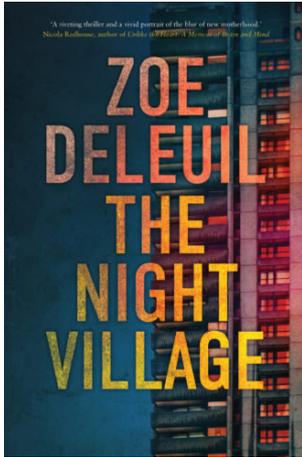
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KSP BOOKSHELF

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www.kspwriterscentre.com



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Workshops and Writing Classes

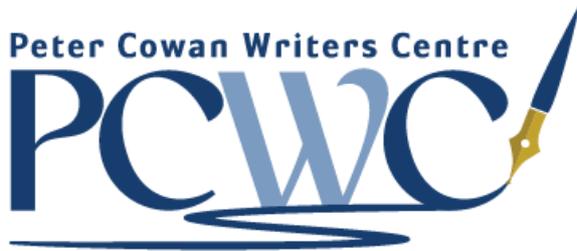




There's always something exciting happening at FAWWA – from workshops and author talks to special events and writing groups.

To explore all upcoming events, programs, and opportunities, be sure to visit their website and stay up to date with everything on offer.

Find Out More



Writing with Colours with Trine Larsen

Have you ever assigned a colour to a character that felt just right but couldn't explain why? This workshop explores colour theory, the meaning behind colour, and how writers can use these deliberately to create deeper layers of meaning in their work. Attendees will leave the workshop with a greater understanding of colour theory and how to use it to enhance their writing.

When: Saturday, 7th of March 1-4pm

Cost: \$25 PCWC members, \$37 non-members

Book Your Ticket

STATE LIBRARY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Seeds of a Story with Amanda Curtin

Join us for Seeds of a Story, an immersive afternoon of discovery, inspiration, and creative exploration featuring acclaimed author Amanda Curtin. This unique workshop invites you to uncover the hidden stories within the State Records Office and the State Library of Western Australia.

Over an afternoon, Amanda Curtin will share insights into her research and writing process and writing advice.

Where: State Library of Western Australia

When: Saturday, 14th of March 1-4pm

Cost: \$35

Book Your Ticket

Competitions and Prizes



Fremantle Press Hungerford Award

The biennial Hungerford Award is open for an unpublished work of adult fiction, narrative non-fiction, young adult fiction or verse novel by an unpublished writer.

Submissions Close: 15 March 2026 (11:59 PM AWST)

More Information

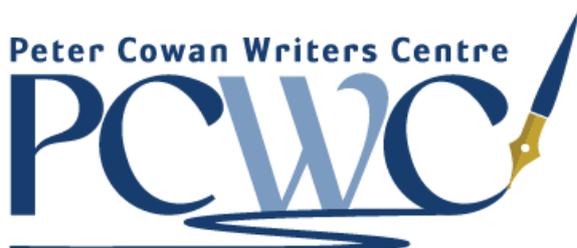


Hunter Writers Centre Grieve 2026

The Grieve Project is a national storytelling initiative accepts poetry, short stories and multi-media on the subject of grief.

Submissions Close: 26 April 2026 (8:00 PM AEST)

More Information



Peter Cowan Short Story Competition

Named in honour of the PCWC namesake, this annual competition will be open again from March to April 2026, with details expected early March. Stories must be under 600 words, with several categories available to cater to a range of writers.

Submissions Close: April 2026 (TBD)

More Information



ABOUT THE KSP WRITERS' CENTRE

Since 1985

The KSP Writers' Centre is run by the Katharine Susannah Prichard Foundation Inc, a not-for-profit incorporated organisation and registered Donor Goods Recipient charity located in the beautiful foothills of Perth. With support from the Shire of Mundaring, it exists to support writers at all levels of the craft. The Centre is managed by a dedicated team who run an annual program of events and services, while also preserving the home and legacy of author Katharine Susannah Prichard and her husband Hugo Throssell VC.

ABOUT KATHARINE

Katharine Susannah Prichard (4 December 1883 – 2 October 1969) was an Australian author and co-founding member of the Communist Party of Australia. She was the first Australian novelist to gain international recognition when her 1915 novel *The Pioneers* won the Hodder and Stoughton All Empire Literature Prize for Australasia. She was a Nobel Prize for Literature nominee in 1951, is featured on the WA State Library's Hall of Fame, and is immortalised with a display in the Innovations Gallery at the New Museum of Western Australia. Katharine wrote novels, short stories, essays, poetry and plays, and was married to Hugo Throssell, who was the first WA Victoria Cross recipient in WWI.

THE KSP FOUNDATION TEAM

Coordinator: Michaela Ironwood

Executive Assistant: Emma H.

Chairperson: Lisa Wolstenholme

Vice-Chair: Alia Bath

Treasurer: Jake Liddelow

Secretary: David Lloyd

Board Members: Mardi May, Rebekah Sheedy, Matthew Tomich

House-keeper: Srijana Gurung

Youth Tutor: Michaela Ironwood

Heritage Advisors: Nathan Hobby and Shannon Britza

Newsletter Editors: Michaela Ironwood and Emma H.

Writing Group Facilitators:

Mardi May, David Wildsmith, Jane Wallis, Phil Mayne, Wence Vahala, Emma H,
Shelley Kissick, Dani Frank, Maggie Szabo and Nadine Browne

Public Fund Committee:

Elizabeth Lewis, Jake Liddelow, Robert Perks, Denis McLeod, Shireen Watson

Garden Manager: VACANT

2025 Volunteer of the Year: Elizabeth Lewis

Primary Sponsor: The Shire of Mundaring

KSP Life Members: Glen Phillips, Chris Oakeley, Eris MacDonald,
Mardi May, Shannon Britza

RIP: Sally Clarke, Colin O'Brien, Charles Staples, Flora Smith

Our Patron: Glen Phillips

CONNECT WITH KSP

Instagram | Facebook | LinkedIn

#kspwriterscentre E:office@kspwriterscentre.com

OFFICE HOURS: Weekdays 10:00am to 2:00pm

Closed weekends and public holidays

Note: Please note that office hours may be subject to change as staff priorities fluctuate. We recommend calling the office landline before visiting to confirm opening times that day.

The KSP Foundation Inc acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.



Australian Government



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WA 6056
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