

Varuna the National Writers' House

Annual Report 2020



VARUNA
The National Writers' House

BLUE
MOUNTAINS
WRITERS'
FESTIVAL

Varuna the National Writers' House

Annual Report 2020

Message from the Chair

With the drought and bushfires of our 2019-20 summer, the year started with a focus on recovery. However, by March our attention turned to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and, for the first time since opening as a residential writers' house in 1991, Varuna closed the main house and physical residencies stopped for four months.

Varuna showed itself to be amazingly resilient during this time and 2020 saw some wonderful initiatives and transformations in its program. The most significant change to Varuna during this time was the construction of the new accessible writing studio.

Varuna showed itself to be amazingly resilient during this time and 2020 saw some wonderful initiatives and transformations in its program.

As we like to ensure writers have a quiet and peaceful stay, any major maintenance tasks at Varuna have always been scheduled in the brief two-week closure over Christmas and the New Year. However, the construction of the studio required several months to be completed and the closure of the main house was the ideal time

for this to occur. The opening of the new studio in August marked a significant new beginning for Varuna, and we welcomed our first writer in a wheelchair for a residency in September. Varuna is now able to offer residencies to all writers, thus upholding the goals of inclusivity and accessibility that are core to our values.

Varuna also created some exciting new programs, extending its reach to talented writers into the online world. Daily Shut Up and Write sessions were offered to Alumni members, significantly strengthening the Alumni community and offering support and solace during the difficult periods of lockdown, especially for our Melbourne Alumni.

The Board is very grateful to our core funding bodies, Create NSW and the Australia Council, for their continued funding during this difficult year, as well as their flexibility, practical advice and other support.

The year 2020 was therefore a year of significant changes in Varuna, however the tribulations were met with innovation and creativity. Varuna was able to emerge from the year with greater resilience and a wider reach than ever before.



Jennifer Scott, April 2021

Message from the Executive Team

It's been an interesting process reflecting on the year that was. Indeed, a better dystopian novel would be hard to write.

The most sobering month of the year was April, when we closed the doors of Varuna for the first time in almost 30 years. The grounds fell eerily silent and no lights shone from the windows at night. Programs were cancelled one after the other, culminating in the disheartening decision to cancel the 2020 Blue Mountains Writers' Festival.

However, with support from our funding bodies and from JobKeeper, we started finding new ways to help writers. We launched our first virtual residency, where six writers met online every day for a week, sharing readings, talking with mentors, and joining authors such as Charlotte Wood, Michael Robotham, Tara-June Winch and Tony Birch for fabulous Q&A sessions. Our chef, Sheila Atkinson, filmed a video demonstrating her famous eggplant parmigiana, and on Saturday evenings, Varuna staff and writers from round Australia would convene on Zoom to share a glass of wine and eat our own versions of this dish together.

Inspired, we extended this idea to our international partners, and in June through to November, we held virtual residencies with a diverse mix of writers from around the world, with sessions facilitated by overseas residency partners, publishers and authors. We could never have guessed that it would take the closure of Australian borders to deepen these international relationships so quickly.

Confidence gained through these online experiences helped Varuna transfer several other programs to an online format, including residencies in partnership with Kill Your Darlings and Arts NT, masterclasses in short stories and poetry and workshops for young writers.

The house closure was an ideal time for reflection, and saw us develop a Strategic Plan for 2021-24, our first Disability Inclusion Action Plan and our first Reconciliation Action Plan. We submitted funding applications to core funding bodies for funding renewals and became one of only two literary organisations in Australia to be successful in securing both state and federal multi-year funding for the years to come.

Finally, August saw the house tentatively re-open to residents, perfectly timed to coincide with the opening of our new accessible studio. We celebrated with a suitably Covid-safe occasion where the builder handed over the keys to the new building with the aid of a spirit level to span the distance between us, and shortly afterwards, Varuna welcomed Dr Ursula King, the first writer in a wheelchair to ever stay at Varuna.



In many ways, 2020 was a turning point for Varuna. There's an energy and excitement about 2021 — after all, what could possibly go wrong? — and a feeling of confidence that we can respond quickly to change, be more inclusive, and continue to create programs that really do make a difference to Australia's literary community.

Veechi Stuart, Executive Director

Amy Sambrooke, Creative Director

Our Vision, Pillars, Goals and Values

Our vision is to inspire the creation of Australian writing that enriches and shapes our culture

<p>Artistic Practice</p>	<p>Diversity</p>	<p>Indigenous</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>Finance and Systems</p>	<p>Infrastructure and Heritage</p>
<p><i>To support artistic excellence and the creation and publication of new Australian works</i></p>	<p><i>To cultivate, encourage and promote diverse writing and writers</i></p>	<p><i>To support excellence and innovation in the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and literature</i></p>	<p><i>To create a hub for writers and skills development that is well loved by our local community, and which brings economic benefits to our local region</i></p>	<p><i>To establish resilience through diversification of funding sources, and to leverage technology to ensure wise use of limited staff resources</i></p>	<p><i>To value and nurture our heritage, while consolidating our future viability through the construction of additional buildings</i></p>

OUR PILLARS
OUR GOALS

<p>Writing and creativity</p>	<p>Rigour and commitment to the writing craft</p>	<p>Respect and inclusiveness</p>	<p>Heritage and place</p>
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OUR VALUES

Goal 1: Artistic practice

To support artistic excellence and the creation of new works through a unique program of fellowships and residencies.

In 2020, Varuna:

- ➔ Provided 102 writers with 130 weeks as an artist-in-residence at Varuna.
- ➔ Established new international partnerships with Write On, Door County, a writers' residency in Wisconsin, Gray Wolf Press (US), and Shanghai Writers' Association. Varuna also held international 'virtual residencies' with partners in Wisconsin and Cove Park, bringing writers together from Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom.
- ➔ Provided 82 writers with newly developed online courses, including the popular *Varuna Lamplight Residencies*, intensive masterclasses in poetry and short story writing, and the *Lithgow Young Writers' Studio*.
- ➔ Redesigned the *Kill Your Darlings Fellowship* and *Arts NT Fellowship* programs to run online.
- ➔ Received and professionally assessed over 1,000 applications across 23 different programs.
- ➔ Continued our successful residency program with Western Sydney University, supporting creative writing doctoral students.
- ➔ Established a new fellowship partnership with Denmark Arts, WA, supporting a writer from WA to come to Varuna for a two-week period.
- ➔ Collaborated with Griffith Review to provide the *Writing Fire Writing Drought Fellowship* for five writers from regional NSW.
- ➔ Coordinated 187 writing consultations, including a program of subsidised consultations for alumni while in lockdown.
- ➔ Attracted a record number of applications for both the Affirm Press Mentorship Award (149) and the Varuna Residential Fellowships (306).



I just wanted to send you a heartfelt thank you for a truly wonderful week. You have reignited the passion I had in my manuscript, and given me the tools to get the job done. You are all exceptional at what you do, and I am so grateful to have been able to be a part of the Lamplight Residency.

Kirstie Bedford, author attending Varuna's first Lamplight Residency

Goal 2: Diversity

To cultivate, encourage and promote diverse writing and writers.

In 2020, Varuna:

- ➔ Completed the construction of a new accessible writing studio on the grounds of Varuna. As soon as the building was complete, we started receiving enquiries and applications from writers living with disability, and welcomed 8 writers with disability in the short period from August to December, including welcoming Varuna's first writer-in-residence in a wheelchair.
- ➔ Received 174 applications from culturally diverse writers (an increase of over 20 applications when compared to 2019).
- ➔ Out of a total of 102 residencies in 2020, we provided residencies to 36 culturally diverse writers, 11 writers living with disability, and 33 writers from regional Australia.
- ➔ Established a Disability Inclusion Advisory Group to review Varuna's disability policy.
- ➔ Drafted Varuna's first Disability Inclusion Access Plan (DIAP), and commissioned Accessible Arts to review this plan.
- ➔ Facilitated a four-week online Young Writers' Studio, funded by Lithgow Council, in which 11 young writers participated in online writing activities and weekly zoom sessions.
- ➔ Partnered with Arts NT to provide three two-week physical residencies and mentoring packages for writers from remote Australia. Due to COVID-19, we also provided an online writing residency for six NT writers.

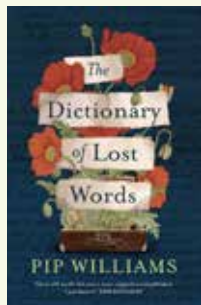


I'm a disabled writer, and I've felt that I was able to manage myself within the context of the fellowship and in the company of more able-bodied writers easily. The work with Carol Major made a genuine contribution to my skill level and understanding of my work and will continue through my work from now on.

Kerri Shying

CASE STUDIES

The Dictionary of Lost Words



When Pip Williams was awarded a Varuna fellowship in 2019, she was an emerging writer currently working on an historical novel that weaved the life of a woman during the years of the Women's Suffrage Movement through the story of creating

the Oxford English Dictionary. Varuna provided Pip with the confidence to develop this work further, and she found that the environment at Varuna was so productive, she returned for two more alumni residencies later that year. By the time Pip came for the second of these residencies, she had already secured Affirm Press as her publisher, and was feverishly editing the final pages as the Blue Mountains bushfires and helicopters raged all around.

Selling more than 100,000 copies in the first few months, shortlisted for several prizes, and with rights sold to dozens of countries, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* demonstrates the difference that a Varuna fellowship can make to an emerging author.

Varuna was my home away from home during the writing phase of my novel (the kind of home where a mother-figure is always in the wings cooking good food and keeping everything in order so the spoilt child can follow their passions). If it hadn't been for Varuna I would still be writing my book instead of talking about it to people as far flung as London and Dallas and Sydney. Thank you Varuna, from the bottom of my heart, for spoiling me and believing my passion was worth it. Pip Williams

One Bright Moon



Andrew Kwong was only seven when he witnessed his first execution, a scene that left him sleepless, anxious and doubtful about his commitment as a revolutionary in Mao's New China. At 12, Andrew escaped famine and persecution to escape from China, finally arriving in Australia in his late teens.

Andrew initially trained as a doctor and came to writing later in life, sparked by a week of professional development at Varuna in 2010. Varuna helped to nurture Andrew's development as a writer, offering him fellowships, regular residencies and mentoring

as he developed his craft via short stories and journals. His memoir, *One Bright Moon*, was selected for a Publisher Introduction Fellowship in 2013, before winning the Unpublished Manuscript Open Pitch award with Writing NSW and HarperCollins in 2018, and was finally published to significant acclaim in May 2020.

Andrew's story is emblematic of the ways in which Varuna contributes to Australia's literary sector. Our blind assessment processes ensured that the quality of his work was recognised; our intensive mentoring program provided a community of writers, editorial development and vital encouragement. Our professional pathways program has since offered Andrew the opportunity to present at our livestreamed Festival event partnering with the ABC; Andrew's bestselling memoir is now reaching an international audience.

Goal 3: First Nations writing

To provide enduring and meaningful assistance for the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers and literature.

In 2020, Varuna:

- Provided a one-week fellowship for First Nations writers in the last week of November 2020.
- Welcomed award-winning Indigenous authors, Tony Birch and Tara June Winch, as facilitators for two of the Lamplight Residencies, and award-winning Indigenous author Alexis Wright as a presenter for the Q&A session for the NT Fellowship.
- Welcomed local Indigenous Elders, David King and Chris Tobin, to perform a smoking ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new accessible writing studio.
- Received 45 fellowship applications from Indigenous writers, a 60 per cent increase on the previous year.
- Hosted an online Q&A session during lockdown with Melissa Lucashenko for all First Nations fellowship recipients, whose residency at that point had been cancelled due to Covid.
- Spent time developing and discussing Varuna's first Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Further developed our First Nations Library with the assistance of University of Queensland Press.
- Welcomed illustrator Charmaine Ledden-Lewis for our Blue Mountains Writers' Festival broadcast.
- Celebrated the publications of *Ghost Bird* by Lisa Fuller, Varuna alumni, and *Fire Front: First Nations Poetry and Power Today*, curated by alumni Alison Whittker.
- Worked with Jasmine Seymour and Leanne Mulgo Watson, authors of the award-winning *Cooee Mittigar*, to develop a children's Darug language workshop format for our Festival (postponed due to Covid until 2021).



The two weeks was well needed, not only to write, but to witness and observe other writers accomplished in their field, learn and grow from that is amazing. Every person I met was kind & generous in knowledge. Really I can't put into words how this experience has made me look at life in many different perspectives.

Meaghan Holt

From the Visitors' Book 2020

29/11/20
Mandaang-gawa Varuna! Many thanks for your solace this past week where I have found inspiration + a new writing family.
Jeanne Heare
2020

There is magic in these walls. Such a wonderful week of writing and words, and always a supportive and encouraging group of people. I am leaving feeling inspired and complete.

Lesley-Anne Houghton

Thank you as ever, Varuna, but I don't want to write about this week so much as express my deep and lasting gratitude for countless wonderful visits over the decades. It seems unbelievable that you are shutting your doors tomorrow for the foreseeable, pandemic-y future...you have been an absolutely essential service for so many writers, and I know that you will be so again soon. Linda Jaivin, the day before Varuna's close in March 2020

It's been a great honour and opportunity to receive a Writing Fire, Writing Drought Residency. As I waded through my first major work, this week has brought me peace, confidence, companionship and adventures. Sometimes we all hold great stories. Some of us just need a little kindness, recognition, and a safe place to tell them. Jo Dodds

Yaama ngindaay. Thank you for the much-needed time and space to write and thanks to Sheila for the amazing food!! Yaluu until next time. Emma Hicks

Wai was the ideal mentor for me. I responded so strongly to her book that I felt comfortable sharing my vision for my work with her and hearing her feedback.

Libby Hyett

The Varuna experience was wonderful, I've heard so much about this wonderful writing space nestled in the Blue Mountains and I know why it's been so heralded and celebrated amongst the writers. It was very rewarding to be a part of this valuable and unique experience to nurture and develop emerging writers in Western Sydney. Wai Chim

The particular impact of Varuna was like a quickening. I entered the version of the manuscript I worked on while at Varuna into the Kill Your Darlings Unpublished Manuscript Award, a prize which I would eventually win. Through that process, I signed with my literary agent, Grace Heifetz, and as of this Monday just gone, my book has been sent to a number of publishers. I can't envision quite how the process would have gone if I didn't get this encouragement and meaningful support at such a vital time. Hayley Scrivenor

Goal 4: Community engagement

To create a hub for writers and skills development that is well loved by our local community, and which brings economic benefits to our region.

In 2020, Varuna:

- Facilitated a four-week online Young Writers Studio, funded by Lithgow Council. 11 young writers joined this course, participating in weekly Zoom sessions and contributing to online writing tasks and discussion boards.
- Provided online masterclasses in short stories and poetry.
- Provided a residential masterclass in memoir writing. The masterclass attracted memoir writers of a high calibre, several of whom have publishing outcomes pending.
- Provided a 'mini-festival' event, in collaboration with ABC Radio Sydney, with Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, Andrew Kwong and Tegan Bennett Daylight in conversation with the ABC's Cassie McCullagh, fireside in the Carrington Library. This video was livestreamed, attracting over 11,000 views.
- Provided daily 'Shut Up and Write' sessions free to Varuna Alumni from late July to the end of the year. These sessions attracted up to 30 writers per day, providing a much-valued sense of connection, especially by Melbourne writers in their extended period of lockdown.
- Acted as Creative Facilitator for the Blue Mountains Stories Project, attracting 100 submissions from the community reflecting on the challenges of 2020.
- Invited 15 of our Alumni to record a short video about what Varuna means to them, to be used for the Varuna 30th Birthday celebration in 2021.



Huge gratitude to the V Team for putting together the ABC Live short version of a writers festival. It was a wonderful and well-spent hour and whilst I'm feeling a little disappointed that the show has finished I am also feeling rejuvenated. Natalie Newton

The daily writing you kindly offer is the most wonderful gift. Months of Melbourne lockdown living on my own has been taxing, and tuning into write, with your lovely, bright facilitation has been wonderful. I've been quite surprised how much work can be generated in one of those sessions, and it makes it easier to continue in the evening after work because I feel I've made a start. Fiona Lynch

Goal 5: Finance and governance

To establish resilience through diversification of funding sources, manage expenditure prudently, and leverage technology to ensure wise use of limited staff resources.

In 2020, Varuna:

- Finalised our four-year Strategic Plan for 2021-24, in consultation with many stakeholders.
- Welcomed two new Directors to Varuna's Board: science journalist Bianca NoGrady and screenwriter Zoe Harrington.
- Held an enormously successful crowdfunding campaign, raising over \$26,000 for our new studio.
- Diversified our funding sources, receiving \$10,000 from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and \$50,000 from the Department of Responsible Liquor and Gaming towards the construction of the new studio.
- Received confirmation of \$30,000 from AusTrade as bushfire recovery funding towards our writers' festival in 2021, and \$75,000 stimulus funding from Create NSW, also to be spent in 2021.
- Submitted four-year funding submissions to both the Australia Council and Create NSW for the years 2021-24. Both applications were successful: The Australia Council increased Varuna's funding from \$80,000 a year to \$90,000 in 2021, and \$115,000 per year for 2022, 2023 and 2024; Create NSW increased Varuna's funding from \$175,000 per year to \$185,000 per year. Varuna was one of only two literature organisations in NSW to secure both state and federal multi-year funding.
- Secured funding for the expansion of our international program, including \$37,000 from DFAT and \$10,000 from the Copyright Agency.
- Managed (with the assistance of JobKeeper) to retain all permanent staff at existing levels, despite a significant drop in residency income due to Covid-19.
- Established the Varuna Internship program, and welcomed two students from Western Sydney University for internships at Varuna.

My residency at Varuna gave me time to think and create, a comfortable environment, valuable companionship in the evenings and access to an outstandingly beautiful environment. I was able to spend hours, not only writing, but reflecting and developing ideas. The whole experience feels like an endorsement – that what I'm doing is valuable and respected, and that I deserve to spend time on my craft. THANK you. Lucinda Gifford

Goal 6: Infrastructure and heritage

Our goal is to value and nurture our heritage, while consolidating our future viability through the construction of additional buildings.

In 2020, Varuna:

- Completed the construction of the new accessible writing studio, consisting of an accessible bathroom, kitchenette, bedroom and study area. This construction cost just short of \$200,000 (for which we attracted \$160,000 in funding) and took four months to complete.
- With the assistance of a disability consultant service, upgraded garden paths and the driveway to ensure accessible access for those in wheelchairs or with walking frames, and constructed an accessible car parking space.
- Conducted much-needed repairs and maintenance work to heritage assets, including replacement of kitchen benchtops, additions to kitchen cabinets, interior painting, removal of linoleum flooring and renovation of original timber floorboards.
- Initiated discussions with local elders and bushcare officers about controlled burns using Indigenous fire control techniques on the native section of Varuna's garden.
- Scheduled an Eleanor Dark Conference in conjunction with Sydney University (delayed due to the pandemic).
- Continued work on a database inventory of heritage assets, and transcribed a tape of Max Hill interviewing Jill and Mick Dark about Varuna.
- With the help of volunteers, continued to progress weed management on the property.



Thank you, again, for the opportunity to be one of the first writers with disability to roadtest the new studio (affectionately nicknamed the 'teenage retreat' while I was there). It really is a beautiful space and will only value add to the magic Varuna already so abundantly offers. I hope the rest of the landscaping proceeds without too many hitches, and Varuna is able to continue to open up again over coming months to offer many others the opportunity to enjoy the new space. Ursula King

The Varuna Way

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

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

Summarised Financial Statements

**The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Revenue	652,217	637,279
Other income	150,352	5,212
Total revenue	802,569	642,491
Expenses		
Administration	(54,472)	(58,382)
Depreciation	(16,032)	(5,355)
Employee benefits	(257,815)	(237,757)
Facility expenses	(102,313)	(102,185)
Program and fellowship expenses	(144,009)	(227,016)
Total expenses	(574,641)	(630,695)
Surplus for the year	227,928	11,796
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus after income tax	227,928	11,796
Other comprehensive income:		
Revaluation of land and buildings	171,088	-
Total comprehensive income	399,016	11,796

Revenue of \$802,569 included capital grants and fundraising of \$184,227 towards Varuna's accessible studio; federal Covid-19 support of \$143,212, and the revaluation of land and buildings of \$171,088. Note that the costs of building Varuna's accessible studio are not included in Total Expenses for the year, but have instead been capitalised and reflected in the Balance Sheet.

Summarised Financial Statements (continued)

**The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	574,026	525,486
Receivables	29,392	14,954
Other assets	4,680	4,018
Current assets	608,098	544,458
Non-current		
Property, plant and equipment	1,937,576	1,565,417
Non-current assets	1,937,576	1,565,417
Total assets	2,545,674	2,109,875
Liabilities		
Current		
Trade and other payables	31,772	32,189
Provisions	12,447	10,305
Other liabilities	265,444	252,705
Current liabilities	309,663	295,199
Non-current		
Provisions	27,218	4,899
Non-current liabilities	27,218	4,899
Total liabilities	336,881	300,098
Net assets	2,208,793	1,809,777
Equity		
Reserves	1,433,728	1,262,640
Retained earnings	775,065	547,137
Total equity	2,208,793	1,809,777

Summarised Financial Statements (continued)

The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Accumulated Funds \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Building and Maintenance Reserve \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 January 2019	548,091	1,217,640	-	1,765,731
Surplus for the year	11,796	-	-	11,796
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	<u>11,796</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,796</u>
Retrospective restatement	(12,750)	-	45,000	32,250
Balance at 31 December 2019	<u>547,137</u>	<u>1,217,640</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>1,809,777</u>
Balance at 1 January 2020	547,137	1,217,640	45,000	1,809,777
Surplus for the year	227,928	-	-	227,928
Other comprehensive income:				
Revaluation of land and buildings	-	171,088	-	171,088
Total comprehensive income	<u>227,928</u>	<u>171,088</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>399,016</u>
Balance at 31 December 2020	<u>775,065</u>	<u>1,388,728</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>2,208,793</u>

Summarised Financial Statements (continued)

**The Eleanor Dark Foundation Limited
T/A Varuna The National Writers' House
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2020**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from appropriations/grants	496,901	255,916
Receipts from customers	197,216	247,834
Receipts from government stimulus	134,512	-
Receipts from donors and fundraising	29,396	9,944
Receipts from sponsors	1,585	28,214
Payments to suppliers and employees	(596,991)	(599,040)
Interest received	3,024	4,438
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	265,643	(52,694)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(217,103)	(16,101)
Net cash used in investing activities	(217,103)	(16,101)
Cash flows from financing activities	-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	48,540	(68,795)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	525,486	594,281
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	574,026	525,486

Our Sponsors and Funders

Thank you to Create NSW and the Australia Council for the Arts, who provide the core funding so essential to our ongoing support of Australian writers, and to the NSW Government and Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal for their funding of our new accessible studio building. Also thank you to the many individual donors who support the work of Varuna.



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