

GriffithReview71
Remaking the Balance

Sophie Cunningham, Jo Chandler, Gabrielle Chan,
Nardi Simpson, John Kinsella, Genevieve Bell,
Ian Lowe, Inga Simpson, Clare Wright, Trent Parke.

GriffithReview72
States of Mind

New work by writers including:
Lech Blaine, Kate Cole-Adams, Ruby Hillsmith,
Neeraj Gill, Alex Miller, Kathryn Heyman, Joe Gorman.

GriffithReview73
Hey, Utopia!

Elen van Neerven, Fiona Foley, Alex Cothran,
Jane Gleeson-White, Bronny Doyle, Sarah Sentilles,
Hugh Possingham, David Threlkell, Julianne Schultz.

GriffithReview74
Escape Routes

Kim Scott, Bejay Sloos, Behrouz Boochani,
Madeleine Watts, Alice Gorman, Shaun Tan,
Andrew Roff, Vijay Khurana, Alison Gibbs, Declan Fry.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

GriffithReview

Commercial in confidence

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From the editor



I am writing this introduction from the new home of *Griffith Review*, a street-level suite of rooms at the South Bank campus of Griffith University, with accommodation for the whole team, for small gatherings and events, for the display and celebration of the journal's nineteen years of work, and for a prominent public quarterly display of our current cover. It's exciting to have this room to move, room to meet – exciting to be able to meet and work together again – and exciting to feel in this move the full weight of the university's support and celebration of the work *Griffith Review* does and the role the journal plays in public-facing engagement. *Griffith Review* is very present, as well as pertinent, as it has always been. And this move has felt like a transformation and new chapter in and of itself.

In 2021, *Griffith Review* continued to take the pulse of Australia's conversations, and to lead them in new directions. It surveyed the nation's inner and outer worlds, some of its tangible and intangible aspects and assets, some of the impacts and possibilities that have come to light through Covid, and to celebrate, too, some of the spaces that do still exist beyond the reach of the pandemic. In four powerful collections – exploring resources, mental health, ideas of utopia, and ideas of escape – and two bespoke online series, it presented exciting new work by more than 120 of Australia's most compelling emerging and established writers, thinkers and researchers, some who we were thrilled to work with again and so many others who we were delighted to encounter for the first time.

In September, Julianne Schultz – *Griffith Review*'s founding editor, its champion and architect – stepped down from her role at Griffith University. She retains ongoing links with the journal through her invaluable contributions to the advisory board and an emeritus professor position through the institution. Given *Griffith Review*'s move back to the AEL Group, we were delighted that Professor Scott Harrison, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the group, was happy to accept the role of publisher in addition to being Chair of our advisory board.

Griffith Review takes seriously the role it is able to play as a cornerstone of Australia's literary ecology, and it takes pride in the work it can do in this space. Its ongoing focus on identifying, nurturing and encouraging emerging writers continued through this calendar year, and several exciting new projects were initiated, particularly through support from the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund. As much as possible, *Griffith Review* sought to meet audiences where they were – in real life, to a lesser extent, and in the continually transforming online world.

In the exciting space of the ever-refreshing cohort of established writers we're privileged to work with, there were nominations and awards to celebrate – both from work initiated in *Griffith Review*'s pages and work beyond, including recognition of Jo Chandler, Nardi Simpson, Kate Cole-Adams, David Stavanger, Kathrin Longhurst, Bruce Pascoe, Christos Tsiolkas, Evelyn Araluen, Cassandra Pybus, Rebecca Giggs and Sarah Holland-Batt.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'Ashley Hay'.

Associate Professor Ashley Hay
Editor, *Griffith Review*

Editions

GriffithReview71

Remaking the Balance

Sophie Cunningham, Jo Chandler, Gabrielle Chan, Nardi Simpson, John Kinsella, Genevieve Bell, Ian Lowe, Inga Simpson, Clare Wright, Trent Parke.

Remaking the Balance

February

Remaking the Balance examines our relationships with resources both tangible and intangible, physical and personal.

What we grow, eat, mine, burn, transform and manufacture all place increasing stress on the world’s ecosystems. As the global population exceeds 7.8 billion, the question of how to change what we do with what we have has never been more urgent – be that snails, sunshine or stories.

GriffithReview72

States of Mind

New work by writers including: Lech Blaine, Kate Cole-Adams, Ruby Hillsmith, Neeraj Gill, Alex Miller, Kathryn Heyman, Joe Gorman.

States of Mind

May

Anxiety and depression are on the rise in Australia and across the globe. Digital media has created a pandemic of loneliness and disconnection – even before the other pandemic arrived. Ideological extremism is widening divisions and threatening democracies, while the wellness industry is spinning everything from mindfulness to minimalism into big business.

How do these forces help or hinder our psychological equilibrium? How can we ensure the sustainability of our mental health responses – from policy and pharmacy through to prevention?

States of Mind examines the ways we think about our psychological, existential and political condition.

GriffithReview73

Hey, Utopia!

Ellen van Neerven, Fiona Foley, Alex Cothren, Jane Gleeson-White, Briohny Doyle, Sarah Sentilles, Hugh Possingham, David Threlfall, Julianne Schultz.

Hey, Utopia!

August

There’s no place like utopia.

Coined by Sir Thomas More in the sixteenth century, the word ‘utopia’ is a play on the Greek for *no place and good place*, but is an ideal society unattainable – or optimal?

Hey, Utopia! visits utopias old and new to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of imagining a better future and disentangle the practical realities from the pipe dreams. From Plato’s *Republic* to Samuel Butler’s *Erewhon* and beyond, utopian thinking has long influenced how we see the world. Where will it take us next – and do we want to go there?

GriffithReview74

Escape Routes

Kim Scott, Beejay Silcox, Behrouz Boochani, Madeleine Watts, Alice Gorman, Shaun Tan, Andrew Roff, Vijay Khurana, Alison Gibbs, Declan Fry.

Escape Routes

November

From mermaids and space matriarchs to fresh starts and flights of fancy, *Escape Routes* explores what it means to break out and break free.

This edition showcases the winners of the inaugural Griffith Review Emerging Voices competition (supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund) – Alison Gibbs, Declan Fry, Vijay Khurana and Andrew Roff, alongside new work from Behrouz Boochani, Shaun Tan, Madeleine Watts, Beejay Silcox and Jessica White.

Quarterly activities



February–April 2021

Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance

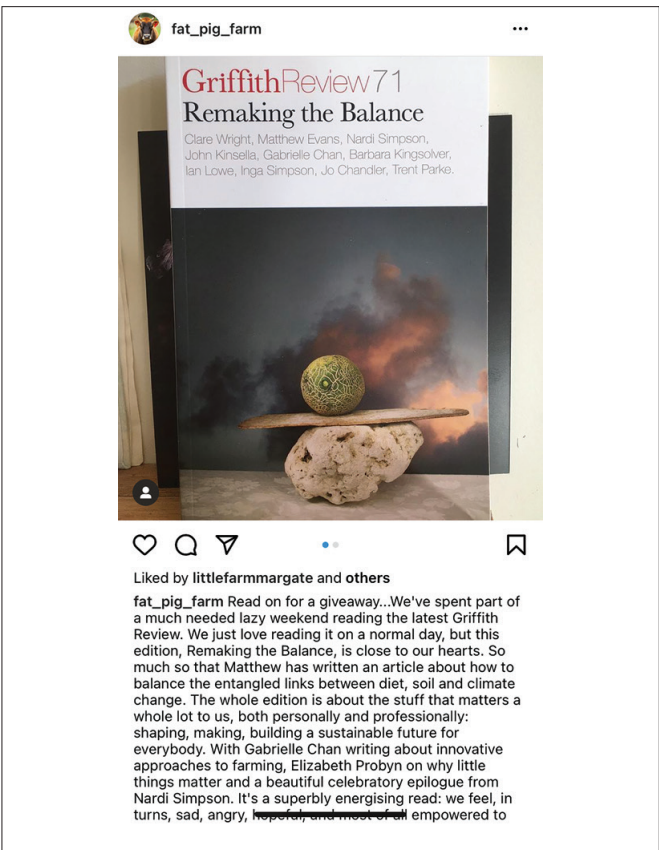
Edited by Ashley Hay

The idea for the first edition of 2021 grew from an exploration of resources, with the original working title – *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral* – modified to scoop less tangible resources into this edition’s gaze as well, partly in response to the continuing impacts of Covid. The ongoing impacts of climate change – and the lack of political will and policy action in this space – were powerfully explored in new reportage work by Jo Chandler (supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund through our inaugural Reportage Project), a stunning photo essay from award-winning photographer Trent Parke, and a suite of three poems and an exclusive Q&A with acclaimed American writer Barbara Kingsolver.

Nardi Simpson’s work – the first output of our Unsettling the Status Quo partnership with Grace Lucas-Pennington at State Library of Queensland’s black&write! program,

funded by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund – stands as one of the most powerful we’ve been able to share. Nardi’s presence in live events, her recording of her essay as audio, the ongoing resonance of her essay with other writers and readers, the number of awards her work has been shortlisted for all speak to her emergence as one of the most important new voices in Australia’s literary landscape.

Alan Schwartz’s powerful and personal exploration of his transition away from capitalism resonated with a broad range of readers and was complimented in terms ranging from ‘how honest, open, elegant yet humble and insightful it is’ to the rareness of the opportunity to ‘read about such an intellectual journey, the ideas (and people) you encountered, and the arguments you found most persuasive. You express all this in a style that is simple and honest, notwithstanding the complexity of the material.’ This piece – and Alan’s intellectual generosity – continue to inspire ongoing conversations and exchanges, and *Griffith Review* is excited to have played its part in the initiation of this next part of Alan’s journey.



‘A beautiful presentation of an important story.’
Ross Garnaut

‘It’s rare to read about such an intellectual journey, the ideas (and people) you encountered, and the arguments you found most persuasive. You express all this in a style that is simple and honest, notwithstanding the complexity of the material. So congratulations on the publication and best wishes for the interesting conversations which seem bound to follow!’
Glyn Davis

‘*Griffith Review* is a great vehicle for intellectual debate and social change.’
Bernard Stapleton

‘It is a great collection that pushes conversations in different directions.’
Elsbeth Probyn

Media value (ASR)

\$747,647

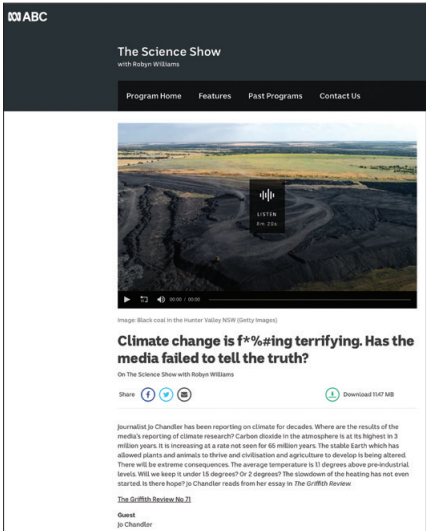
Audience (ASR)

4,162,630

Media placements

40

Including extracts, reviews and interviews.



This edition achieved strong national media coverage, with a wide range of interviews, reviews and extracts. Coverage began with the publication of extracts from Clare Wright’s essay on mining history and Indigenous ownership by several online news outlets including *The Conversation*, *Micky* and *Tagg*, and Clare was also interviewed for ABC Radio Sydney and 3RRR.

Jo Chandler was interviewed by Robyn Williams for the *The Science Show* (ASR audience 675,000) discussing her reportage on the emotional impacts of climate change ‘Tales from the frontline’, developed through the *Griffith Review* Reportage Project supported by the Copyright Agency.

Extending out from the print publication, audio recordings of Ashley Hay reading her introduction and contributors Inga Simpson, Tony Wood and Nardi Simpson reading their work were published on the *Griffith Review* website and Soundcloud.

Award-winning journalist and podcaster Nance Haxton explored the return of Indigenous fire regimes to Australia’s landscape for the third *Griffith Review* ‘Backstory’ podcast. Nance was interviewed for ABC radio on *Editors Choice with James O’Brien* to an ASR audience of over 660,000 people.

The announcement of the inaugural Griffith Review Emerging Voices Competition (supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund) was featured on ArtsHub, and received coverage in *Books & Publishing* and the Copyright Agency newsletter *Creative Licence*.

Events

6

Contributors

22

Genres

10

Reportage | Memoir |
In Conversation | Interview |
Picture Gallery | Poetry |
Fiction | Multimedia | Podcast

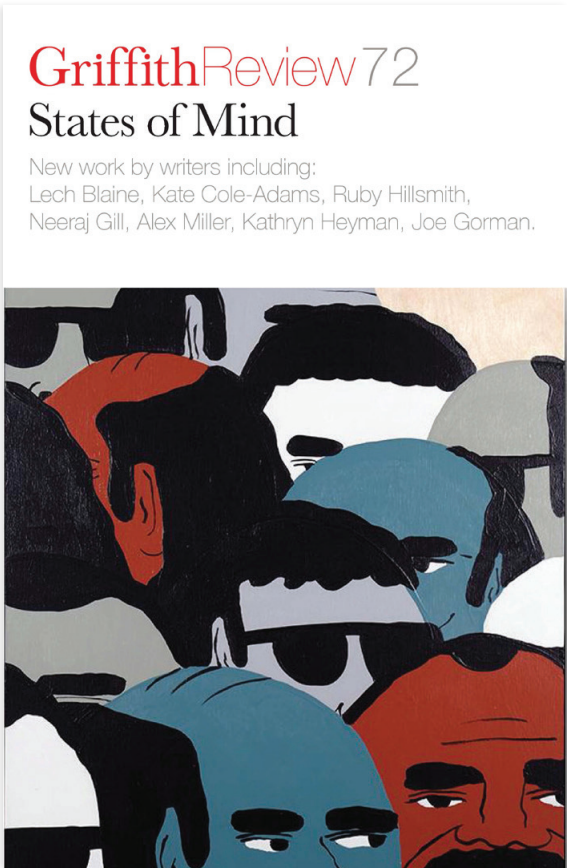
Remaking the Balance was celebrated with in-person conversations at a series of events commencing with the edition launch at Avid Reader, Brisbane, in February. *Griffith Review* panel events at Adelaide Writers’ Week and World Science Festival, Brisbane, allowed us to introduce emerging writers including Nardi Simpson, Jasmin McGaughey (from our online Elemental Summer series) and Lesley-Anne Houghton directly to our readers and broader audiences.

This edition also saw the initiation of a new partnership with Griffith University Alumni, with a conversation between Alan Schwartz, Ken Henry and Jane Gleeson-White introduced by the Griffith University Vice-Chancellor and chaired by *Remaking the Balance* contributor Gabrielle Chan in Canberra.

Paul Barclay chaired a thought-provoking conversation with Anne Orford, Alan Schwartz and Sophie Cunningham at Readings Melbourne which was recorded for broadcast on ABC Radio National’s *Big Ideas*.



Quarterly activities



Brooke Davis, Masako Fukui, David Stavanger and Ruby Hillsmith, and frontline reports of transformative work from practitioners including Professor Pat Dudgeon (Australia’s first registered Indigenous psychologist) and Professor Neeraj S Gill (former Acting Chief Psychiatrist of Queensland). Award-winning writers Vicki Laveau-Harvie and Lech Blaine both chose this edition of *Griffith Review* to share the next chapters in their respective lives with their readers – with stunning and surprising epiphanies in each. And Kate Cole-Adams’ magnificent reportage on the earliest days – and pandemic interruptions – to Australia’s first psychedelic drug trials was rewarded with a shortlisting in the 2021 Eureka Prize for Science Communication.

May–July 2021

Griffith Review 72: States of Mind

Edited by Ashley Hay

The landscape of mental health has been increasingly spotlit through the past two years of pandemic – but explorations of how mental health, mental wealth and mental illness were regarded have been increasingly fundamental to measures of how Australia was faring across recent years, thanks in part to the powerful and ongoing advocacy of researchers including Professor Pat McGorry, who wrote the opening piece for this edition.

This edition, with a general call-out spanning the locked-down summer of 2020-2021, attracted a record-breaking number of submissions – 550 – which added to the richness of points of view, perspectives and distinct voices that its pages could embrace. From a one-on-one interview with the current Secretary of Treasury, Dr Steven Kennedy, who trained as a psychiatric nurse before entering economics, to the generosity of memoirs by Kyle Perry,

The curation of each edition of *Griffith Review* is part kaleidoscope, part crossed fingers, part tightrope and part careful design. With this collection, there was a clear awareness of the complexity of reader responses around triggering, misery memoir and trauma porn, and clear awareness of the fine line that can exist between these spaces and the critical work of sharing important and powerful stories.

Readers and audiences responded to the breadth and warmth of this collection – as well as to the extraordinary trust and generosity displayed by so many of its contributions. In the words of one contributor and long-term subscriber, the edition curated an ‘excellent range of stories, deeply engaging, diverse in ideas, solid writing. Been reading *GR* since very early days and felt this was one of the best.’

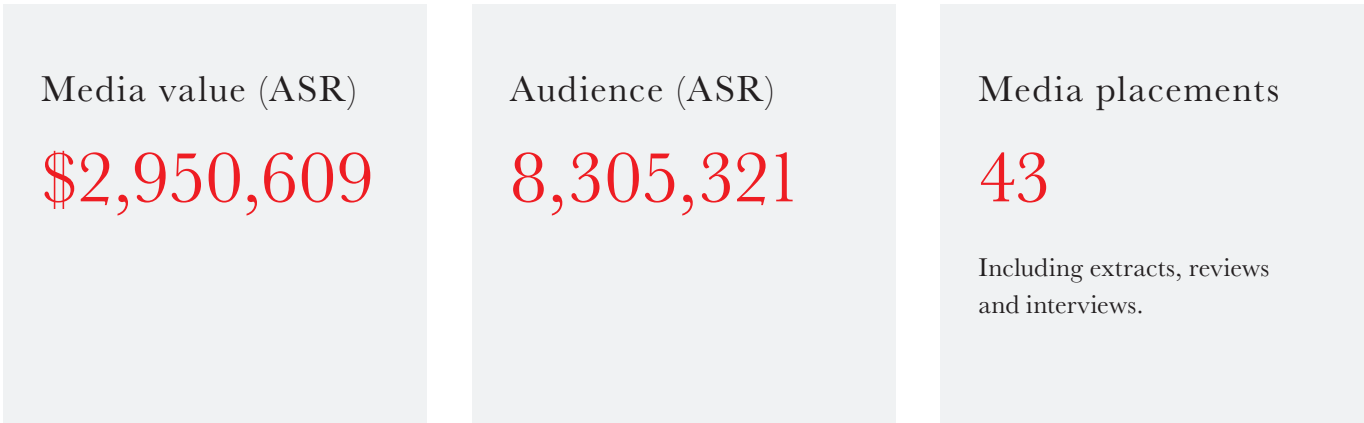
‘I’m loving your latest issue, it’s absolutely brilliant! I’ve now almost read it cover to cover and every single piece I’ve read has made me think or feel in new ways. I’ve been recommending it far and wide and lots of friends have also been buying it and at least one resubscribed. All power and respect to you and your fabulous team.’

Jane Gleeson-White

‘I can’t imagine the Australian cultural landscape without what you create. You’re an essential service. Thank you.’

Vicki Laveau-Harvie





The start of the publication window for this edition aligned with the Federal Budget announcement of an allocation of more than two billion dollars for mental health measures, which supported wide media interest across print and radio. Print coverage opened with an interview between Dr Steven Kennedy, Federal Secretary to the Treasury, and journalist Shane Wright, published in *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* and reaching a readership of over 450,000. *The Guardian* published extracts of Angela Smith’s powerful essay ‘The privatisation of anxiety’ and Bianca Nogrady’s reportage ‘The chemical question, reaching an ASR audience of over three million people.

An extract of Samuel Alexander’s essay ‘Searching for sanity in a world hell-bent on destruction’ was published on *The Conversation* and read by over 11,000 readers in Australia and internationally, and Kate Cole-Adams was interviewed for ABC Illawara and an extract of her reportage on psychedelic drug trials in Australia was shared on *Inside Story*, attracting a readership of over 14,000.

Social media reach around this edition was also significant, particularly on Twitter with almost 300,000 impressions – an increase of 100 per cent on the previous quarter.

Books & Publishing published the announcement of the winners of the first Griffith Review Emerging Voices Competition.



A *Griffith Review* panel conversation at Sydney Writers Festival (SWF) opened the events program for *States of Mind*, with Ashley Hay in conversation with Lech Blaine, Kathryn Heyman and Masako Fukui. SWF also hosted the announcement of the winner and runner-up in the Nature Writing Prize, with winner Gregory Day joining Ashley Hay in conversation following the announcements.

A panel event at Brisbane Writers Festival featured *States of Mind* contributors Kathryn Heyman, Loki Liddle and David Stavanger in conversation with Ashley Hay.

The official launch of the edition at Avid Reader in May was chaired by *Griffith Review* Senior Editor Carody Culver in conversation with Kate Cole-Adams, Neeraj S Gill and Kyle Perry, and included a poetry reading by Loki Liddle.

The partnership with ABC RN *Big Ideas* saw Paul Barclay led a conversation with Kate Cole-Adams, Ruby Hillsmith and Patrick McGorry at Readings, Melbourne, which was recorded and broadcast nationally on 20 July (ASR 676,840).

‘I loved that session a great deal. I have had many public conversations over the last two weeks, and this was honestly one of my favourites, just for ease and fun and interesting and varied rabbit holes.’

Kathryn Heyman (email after Brisbane Writers Festival)



Quarterly activities

GriffithReview73 Hey, Utopia!

Ellen van Neerven, Fiona Foley, Alex Cothren,
Jane Gleeson-White, Briohny Doyle, Sarah Sentilles,
Hugh Possingham, David Threlfall, Julianne Schultz.



Australia could be remade – uniquely, wonderfully – with a final acceptance of the generous invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

A stunning essay by Julianne Schultz – inspired by her work on *The Idea of Australia: Searching for the Soul of a Nation* – not only opened the edition itself, but also introduced a suite of five works that grew from conversations with Professor Julian Meyrick about Thomas Piketty's call in *Capital and Ideology* for a 'just society', a set of 'sober, practical proposals'. These calls – and this suite of five essays – underscore one critical insight: not only must something be done to change the world's direction – it can be. This powerful and influential quintet of work was produced by Julianne Schultz, Julian Meyrick, Anna Yeatman, Kristen Rundle and Justin O'Connor.

August–October 2021

Griffith Review 73: Hey, Utopia!

Edited by Ashley Hay

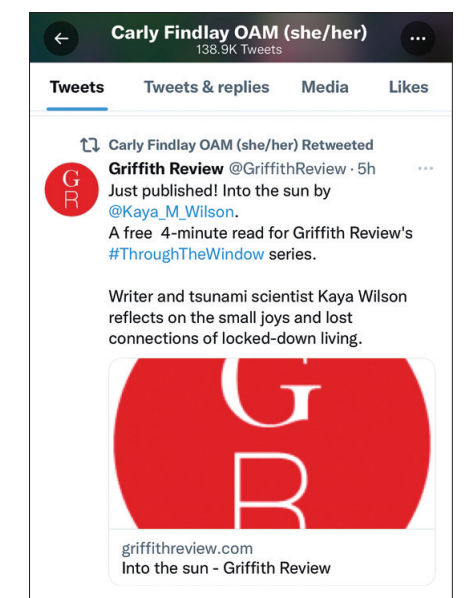
One of the remarkable features of *Griffith Review* during its seventy-plus editions has been the correlation of its focus with the zeitgeist of the day. Choosing utopias as a focus felt natural in the midst of a pandemic that had not only changed the shape of so many people's worlds but made the possibility of change, or rupture, feel perhaps more tangible than it had for some time.

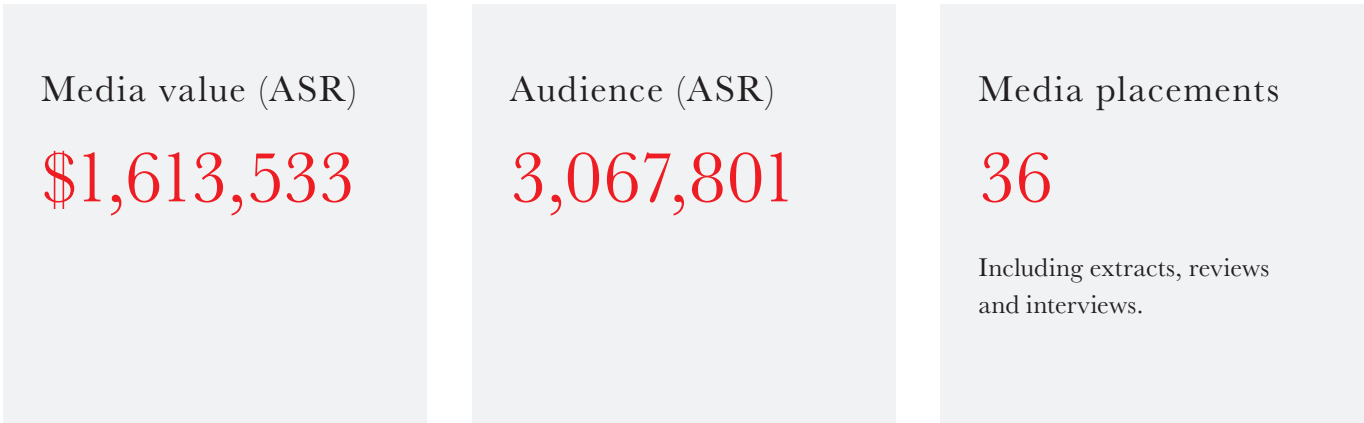
The third edition of *Griffith Review* for 2021 explored other ways the world could be. It asked questions about who makes decisions. It plumbed the depths – and hidden backstories – of national narratives and Australia's own misplaced utopian aspirations. It made space to imagine worlds designed by children, worlds without bosses, worlds with genuine gender equity. It spotlit spaces where decisions were outsourced, fobbed off, unmade, and wondered how much of how many parts of

There was great heart, power and potential too in new work by acclaimed American author Sarah Sentilles, Sydney-based writer and academic Danielle Celermajer, and the novelist and researcher Briohny Doyle. In these pieces, the tendrils of climate, change and imagination wove round the undeniable truth that to make, to create, with whatever was at hand was a first step to remaking the world. Briohny Doyle's memoir, 'Aftermath', on climate, grief, oysters and the perpetual motion of change, resonated strongly with readers in Australia and beyond.

'I am making my way through the pieces in the volume, and I have been enlightened and moved by all of them. The emotional landscape of this volume is really something – it makes at times for hard but necessary reading. I'm loving it, in that 'I'm alive so I might as well be awake' kind of 'loving it.'

Kristen Rundle





Cinnamon Watson (Cinnamon Watson Publicity) took over the role of publicist at the beginning of the publication window for this edition implementing a well-considered strategy that included a focus on building ongoing opportunities for editor Ashley Hay to speak to the complete edition.

Radio coverage commenced with interviews for Ashley Hay on ABC Radio Queensland with Kellie Higgins-Devine and ABC Radio SA with Peter Goers reaching over 50,000 listeners.

Hugh Possingham spoke with Robin Williams for *The Science Show* on ABC Radio National about his wonderful essay on the case for citizen science. Jo Chandler was also interviewed on *The Science Show* discussing a segment dedicated to the Bragg Prize for Science Writing, where her reportage published in *Griffith Review 71* was awarded one of two runner-up places.

Jane Gleeson-White’s essay ‘Erasure’ on women, economics and language attracted significant attention and she spoke to James Valentine for ABC Radio NSW and Phillip Adams for *Late Night Live* on ABC RN, reaching a combined audience of almost 200,000.

A wide range of extracts were published in both print and online news outlets including *The Guardian*, *The Conversation*, *The Koori Mail* and *The Australian*, showcasing work by Jane Gleeson-White, Julianne Schultz, Hugh Possingham, Angelina Hurley, Kristen Rundle and Lea McInerney to a national and international readership.

‘Jane’s interview was so rich. It could have easily run another 10 minutes. It was a very well written, well-argued thesis about the parallels we can see between women’s erasure from modern economics and how so many have failed to understand the true value of the natural world.’

Late Night Live Producer on Jane Gleeson-White interview



Events in this quarter were once again impacted by Covid restrictions, with planned in-person events rescheduled, cancelled or moved online. Travel restrictions forced the cancellation of a planned event as part of the NT Writers Festival. The launch of the edition at Avid Reader was moved to Zoom, with an online audience of ninety joining a conversation between Ashley Hay and contributors Julian Meyrick, Amanda Niehaus, Hugh Possingham and Amanda Tattersall.

Among the suite of digital events, the conversation between contributors Amanda Tattersall and Danielle Celermajer with City of Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor Jess Scully (author of *Glimpses of Utopia*) was a high point. Introduced by Griffith University’s Vice-Chancellor, and chaired by Ashley Hay, this was the second collaboration between *Griffith Review* and the University’s Alumni Advancement team.

Another highlight was a discussion led by Paul Barclay in conversation with *Hey, Utopia!* contributors Kristen Rundle, David Threlfall and Julian Meyrick originally planned for Melbourne Writers Festival and eventually recorded over Zoom, and first broadcast for ABC RN *Big Ideas* on 3 November.

Two events connected to *Griffith Review 69: The European Exchange* were presented in September as part of the British Council UK-AU season. Whilst Covid travel restrictions prevented the events from taking place in Canberra as planned, the shift to online presentation made it possible to include internationally based contributors to *The European Exchange* on each of the panels. Both events were delivered in partnership with *kapacity.org* and the Australian National University.

‘That Utopia discussion was one of the best we’ve done. What an amazing trio of talent. There was a connection that happened on that Sunday arvo. Every now and then – and rarely on Zoom – these discussions are special. This is one of them.’

Paul Barclay, on the ABC RN Big Ideas with Griffith Review 73 contributors

Quarterly activities

GriffithReview 74 Escape Routes

Kim Scott, Beejay Silcox, Behrouz Boochani, Madeleine Watts, Alice Gorman, Shaun Tan, Andrew Roff, Vijay Khurana, Alison Gibbs, Declan Fry.



November 2021–January 2022

Griffith Review 74: Escape Routes

Edited by Ashley Hay

The four editions of 2021 were all interested in different ideas of sustainability – as nimble and as malleable as each had to prove itself as the year unfolded. Against this backdrop, the thinking we brought to the curation and assembly of the final edition for the year was always more about a feeling than an idea: we may have hoped that ideas of escape spoke to carefree holidays and a sensation of release by the time we reached November 2021...but the reality was still a bit more about transcending boundaries and barriers. Again and again.

This edition of *Griffith Review*, a step outside the deeper explorations of ideas and research that the other three editions contain, has always been a different kind of animal for us to design and to promote. It's often a quieter edition – with less media pick-up, less engagement, as if audiences aren't quite sure why or how we've gone off-piste. In the

context of the summer break that spans this publication cycle, this has never felt entirely right – and this year, the combination of focus, cover and the shape of the world conspired to make this fourth edition, *Griffith Review 74: Escape Routes*, our highest selling November edition and our bestselling edition of the year.

Perhaps it began with the cover: the power of that astronaut's gaze in Kathrin Longhurst's *Brave* (2020). Perhaps it began with the power of Longhurst herself, who was awarded the Archibald's prestigious Packing Room Prize for a portrait of singer Kate Ceberano just as our cover with her artwork was revealed.

Perhaps it was the lure of the winners of our first Emerging Voices competition – successful beyond all our hopes in terms of the quality and quantity of entries we received (more than 300 works with so many gems and discoveries amongst them), and the scope and range of the four selected by Declan Fry, Alison Gibbs, Vijay Khurana and Andrew Roff.

Perhaps it was the diversity of ideas of escape explored by our other contributors – Beejay Silcox's extraordinary revelation of the escape from trauma that sparked the genesis of her writing career. Alice Gorman's insistence that space, the final frontier, could be a place that escapes a patriarchal hierarchy once and for all. Madeleine Watts' memoir of transition from one parent and one city to another parent in another city, the ongoing shuffle of a childhood of escape and return, and the liminal spaces in between. Shaun Tan's transcendent and wildly human short story about the buoyancy and risk of love. David Ritter's meditation on new economics, new civics and new hope. And Behrouz Boochani's short story of one brother's determined and vital escape.

Among so very many more.

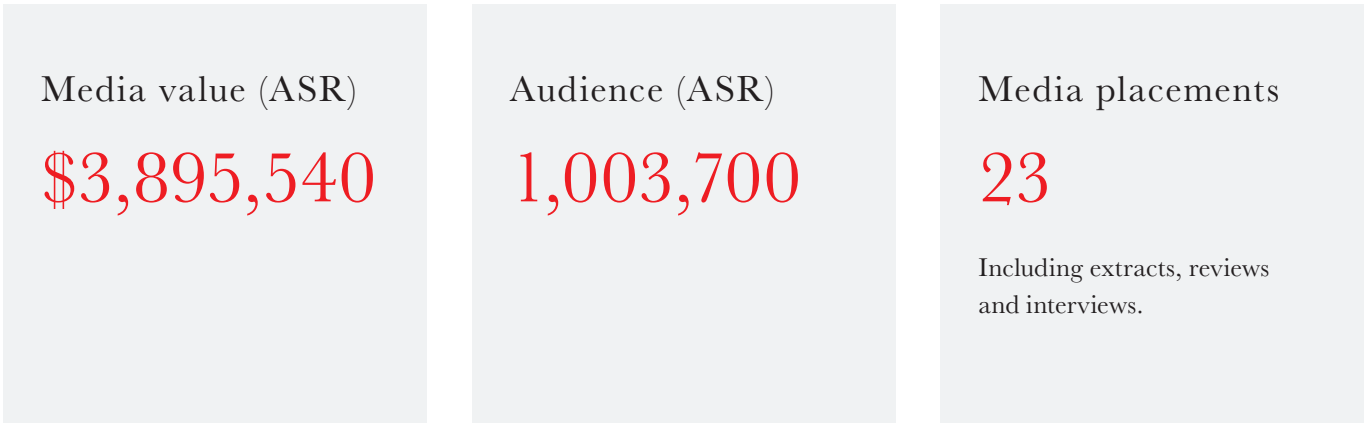
The word 'pivot' feels as if it's worn out its welcome across the past twenty-four months: the warm reception given to this edition of *Griffith Review* deserved a word more like transformation, reinvention, liberation or breakout. It provided a beautiful full stop for an extraordinary year – on the page and beyond. And another celebration of the richness and variety of Australia's many cultural voices.

'It often feels as though literary magazines, of which Australia has an unfair number of excellent examples, are regarded as only for creative nerds or would-be writers. But they are so much more than that – seedbeds of culture, venues for experiment and principled critique, or spaces in which a single issue or idea might be explored from multiple angles. Griffith Review, under the editorship of author and journalist Ashley Hay, does all these things.

I would even argue that this year it has been doing all these things at a cut above.'

Geordie Williamson, The Australian





With a targeted promotional strategy from publicist Cinnamon Watson, this final edition of *Griffith Review* for 2021 achieved strong sales and media coverage. *The Guardian* published an extract of Madeleine Watts’ memoir in late December, and the work of the four winners of the Emerging Voices competition was published as part of a Summer Fiction series which ran throughout January 2022, providing valuable profile for both the writers and the edition.

Digital magazine *SpaceWatch.GLOBAL*, based in Switzerland, published an extract of Alice Gorman’s ‘Moonwalk’ for a global audience of over 400,000.

There was significant media interest in an online-exclusive series of four essays by political scientist Anne Tiernan examining the malaise engulfing contemporary democracy and what could be done to save it, published on the *Griffith Review* website in December. Anne was interviewed by Linda Mottram for PM and Patricia Karvelas for *RN Drive*, reaching a combined audience of over 120,000 listeners nationally.

Radio coverage was also strong across the early part of this quarter, with Ashley Hay interviewed for ABC Radio Queensland and Victoria as well as ABC RN *Sunday Extra*. Beejay Silcox was interviewed by Cassie McCullough.

A highlight of the media coverage for the quarter was the inclusion of *Griffith Review* in ‘Great unsung books of 2021’ by Geordie Williamson for *The Australian*.



Following the Covid-related disruptions to event programming in the previous quarter, it was a pleasure to welcome an in-person audience alongside those on Zoom to the launch of *Griffith Review 74: Escape Routes* at Avid Reader. This event featured readings from contributors Megan McGrath, Sally Breen and Jodie Lea Martire in a celebration of this edition’s focus on creative writing.

An event in partnership with the Institute of Public Administration (ACT) linked to *Griffith Review 72: States of Mind* featuring a distinguished panel of contributors – Dr Steven Kennedy PSM, Professor Patrick McGorry AO and Professor Pat Dudgeon, in conversation with Ashley Hay. The event was well attended, with 98 people joining online, and the response from attendees was warm and enthusiastic.



Online publishing program

The ‘Elemental Summer’ online series (generously supported by The McLean Foundation) ran from 4 November 2020–25 Jan 2021, concluding with Bruce Pascoe’s powerful ‘This Summer, This Land’.

In the first half of 2021 online publishing was focused on providing expanded content linked to editions rather than as standalone work. Two online exclusives were commissioned for the first edition of 2021, *Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance*. An episode of the *Griffith Review* occasional podcast ‘Backstory’ was produced by journalist and podcaster Nance Haxton exploring Indigenous fire management practices. It received strong media attention with Nance interviewed for *ABC NSW Statewide*. Edition contributor Tony Wood discussed his essay from this edition looking at climate policy in Australia for an episode of *The Grattan Podcast* which was made available on the *Griffith Review* website as part of the audio content for the edition. ‘A recombinant history of Australian camels’ by David Thomas Henry Wright, combining historical research, creative writing, digital functionality and archive materials to imagine a camel bloodline that spans the entire history of camels in Australia (1840-present), offered a unique piece of multimedia storytelling to round out the online components of this edition. David was subsequently awarded the 2021 Carmel Bird Digital Literary Award for an expansion of this project.

An online exclusive by Brisbane-based writer Joe Gorman, ‘Looking for Johnny Burnaway’, was published on the *Griffith Review* website as a companion piece to *Griffith Review 72: States of Mind*. This edition saw the establishment of a new collaboration with Nicole Abadee to deliver a *Griffith Review* series under the overarching banner of the *Books, Books, Books* podcast. A brief introduction to the series was released on 15 June, followed by the first episode, a conversation between Nicole Abadee and Ashley Hay on *States of Mind*, which was released on 17 June 2021. This partnership is ongoing, with an episode released to align with each print edition.

Contributors

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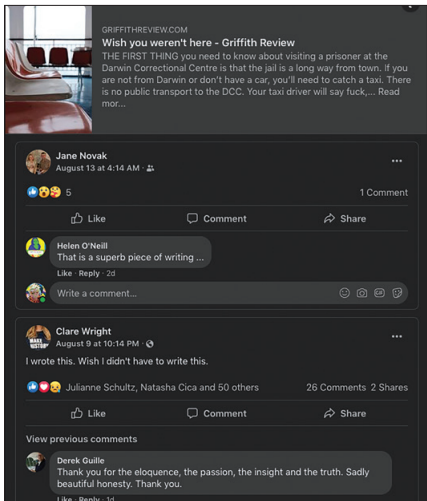
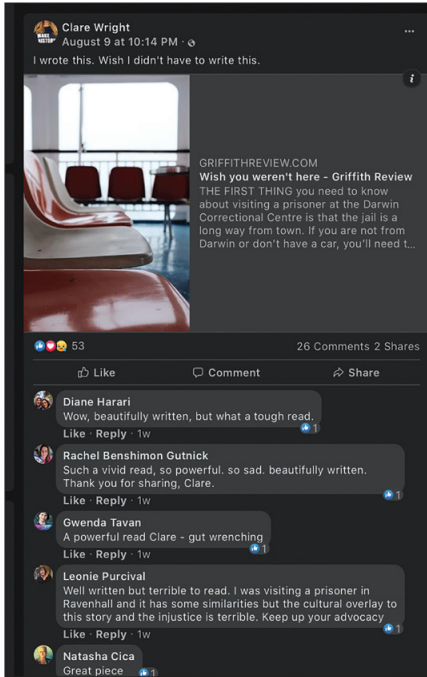


In August, *Griffith Review* recommenced its ‘Through the Window’ initiative in a new iteration expanded to enable writers to explore (in short-form work) any issue of interest. Work was commissioned through an open call-out inviting submissions of up to 1,000 words on any subject – personal, political or professional – that illuminate issues dominating public discourse. Between 6 August and 8 October eight pieces by emerging and established writers including Clare Wright, Alison Whittaker, Andrew Stafford, Angelina Hurley and Jane Rawson were published online. Clare Wright’s piece on visiting a prisoner at the Darwin Correctional Centre attracted significant interest, with over 2,000 page views and strong reach and engagement on social media. In late October, the series featured work by Cameron Muir and Ailsa Piper written in response to Nardi Simpson’s essay ‘Gifts across space and time’ from *Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance*.

Griffith Review continued its partnership with State Library of Queensland providing editorial support and online publication for the winner of the Queensland Young Writers Award. Ellen Vickerman took out this award for a second year in a row for her short fiction ‘Sun queens’.

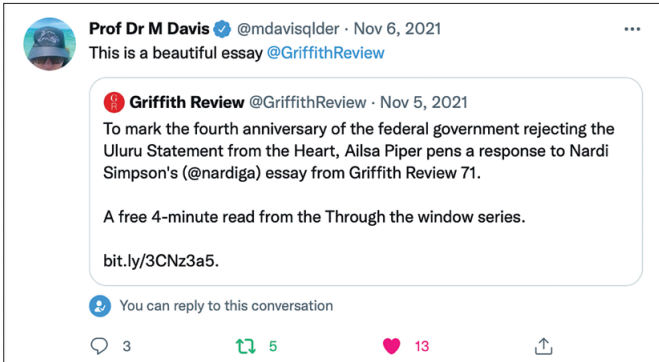
In the final quarter of the year a four-part series by political scientist Anne Tiernan highlighting the issues impacting contemporary democracy was published weekly from 19 November–10 December 2021. This series attracted significant media interest and Anne was interviewed by Linda Mottram on *PM* and Patricia Karvelas for *Drive* (both ABC Radio National).

A partnership between The Finishing School, Parramatta Arts Studio and *Griffith Review* enabled five writers to explore the work of five visual artists for a series of conversations about creation, imagery, imagination and power, published on 17 December and promoted throughout January 2022. This series was ideally suited to online publication that allowed for the inclusion of high-quality images as part of each essay.



Audio also formed a key component of the online program, with Ashley Hay recording her introduction to each edition available on the landing page for each edition. A selection of contributors including Inga Simpson, Nardi Simpson, Loki Liddle and Peggy Frew read their work to provide audio versions available on the *Griffith Review* website. Accessibility is a key priority as part of the redevelopment of the website in 2022, alongside potential partnerships that could support an audio version of the publication as a whole.

Online-only content has demonstrated its value in providing front-of-paywall content that can be utilised in the weekly ‘Great Reads’ e-newsletter and on social channels to drive traffic to the website. It also offers the opportunity to commission responsive work that sits beyond the scope of the print publishing program. The limitations of the current website have hindered the ability to capitalise on this. A key priority for 2022 is to develop a detailed and considered strategy for online content ready for execution mid-year as the new website comes online.



Most read online from 2021 – new work

Author	Title	Article type	Date
Genevieve Bell	Touching the future	Essay	January 2021
Samuel Alexander	Delusions of sanity	Essay	May 2021
Briohny Doyle	Aftermath	Memoir	August 2021
Nardi Simpson	Gifts across space and time	Essay	February 2021
Claire Wright	Wish you weren't here	Online only	August 2021

Most read online work during 2021 – including archives

Author	Title	Article type	Date
Elizabeth Hanscombe	In my father's house	Memoir	April 2013
Yen-Rong Wong	The trauma of discipline	Memoir	August 2019
Kim Mahood	Kartiya are like Toyotas	Essay	April 2012
Genevieve Bell	Touching the future	Essay	January 2021
Teela Reid	The heart of seeding first nations sovereignty	Online only	February 2020

Partnerships and funding

Australia Council of the Arts



2021 was the first year of the new Four-Year Organisations Funding (announced in April 2020), with funding supporting the *Griffith Review* editorial and public program budget, including professional development opportunities for writers.

Arts Queensland



Griffith Review was successful in securing funding through the Queensland Arts Showcase Program for the continuation of the Griffith Review Queensland Writing Fellowship program which supports commissioning and mentoring for eight Queensland writers to develop work for publication across 2022 editions.

Copyright Agency Cultural Fund



Funding through The Copyright Agency Cultural Fund (CAL) supported the continuation of the ‘Unsettling the Status Quo’ program, delivered in partnership with the State Library of Queensland (SLQ), with Grace Lucas-Pennington commissioning work from four First Nations’ writers for publication 2021 editions. CAL funding supported the inaugural *Griffith Review* Emerging Voices Competition which received over 300 submissions. The four winning writers were announced in July 2021 and their work published in the final edition for 2021. Several of the longlisted writers have also secured commissions for publication in 2022 editions. An additional round of funding secured in late 2021 is supporting the competition in 2022.

State Library of Queensland



Griffith Review’s partnership with the State Library of Queensland supports both the ‘Unsettling the Status Quo’ project and the annual SLQ Young Writers’ Award. In 2021 *Griffith Review* published the winning work by Ellen Vickerman as part of the online publishing program, and we are delighted that the partnership will continue in 2022.

Varuna, The Writers’ House | Graeme Wood Foundation



With generous support from the Graeme Wood Foundation, *Griffith Review* proudly partnered with Varuna, The Writers’ House, to again offer week-long residencies for five authors to develop a work in progress. In 2021, the recipients were Jo Chandler, Laura Elvery, Jane Gleeson-White, Nicole Hasham and Shakira Hussain.

Event partners

Griffith Review partnered with the following organisations to co-present events in 2021:

Australian National University, British Council and Kapacity.org

Two events connected to *Griffith Review 69: The European Exchange* were presented in September 2021 as part of the British Council UK-AU season.

Goethe Instiut

A partnership with the Goethe-Instiut supported the presentation of events in Sydney and Melbourne in March 2021 connected to *Griffith Review 69: The European Exchange*.

Griffith University Alumni

A new partnership with Griffith University Alumni enabled the presentation of an event connected to *Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance* in Canberra in June 2021. A second event connected to the second and third editions in 2021 was scheduled to take place in Melbourne in August 2021 but was moved online due to covid restrictions.

Institute of Public Administration

An online event was presented in partnership with the Institute of Public Administration (ACT) featuring *Griffith Review 72: State of Mind* contributors in November 2021.

2022 publication partners

The McLean Foundation



The McLean Foundation is the publication partner for the first edition of 2022 *Griffith Review 75: Learning Curves*.

Australian Antarctic Division

Griffith Review is delighted that the Australian Antarctic Division will be the publication partner for *Griffith Review 77: Real Cool World*, the third edition in 2022. This partnership is supporting commissioning, publication and events associated with the edition.

Whitlam Institute



A new multi-edition partnership with the Whitlam Institute was established in 2021 to support the inclusion of an in-conversation piece in each of the four 2022 editions in the lead up to the fiftieth anniversary of the 'It's Time' election of Gough Whitlam.

Social media and marketing

There was continued growth in both social media following and engagement throughout 2021. Instagram followers jumped significantly, with an increase of 36 per cent from the previous year. There is an active community of writers on this platform and some of this growth is attributed to capturing the attention of emerging writers through promotion and publicity of the inaugural Emerging Voices competition. There is also a clear correlation between content about the Emerging Voices competition and spikes in social media reach and engagement.

Increased investment in paid promotion and campaigns on Facebook contributed to very strong growth of 50 per cent in reach on this channel. Paid promotion was primarily targeted to specific campaigns, including *Griffith Review*'s panel for World Science Festival Brisbane, the two UK|AU season events, the annual subscription drive and promotion of the Emerging Voices winners and their work.

A very effective component of the social media strategy in 2021 was encouraging third parties to post about *Griffith Review* on their own social channels. Examples include posts by contributors Matthew Evans (Fat Pig Farm – 50k Instagram followers), David Ritter (CEO Greenpeace – 16k Twitter followers) and Patrick McGorry (15k Twitter followers). Non-contributor examples include posts by longform non-fiction storytelling platform *Longreads* (300k Twitter followers) about Briohny Doyle's work in *Hey, Utopia!* and Jim Chalmers MP (70k Twitter followers) about Anne Tiernan's online series. These endorsements and recommendations are extremely valuable and deliver the *Griffith Review* brand to new audiences. It is worth noting that the social media platforms do not include reach and engagement from third-party mentions in *Griffith Review* data.

Subscriptions to the 'Great Reads' newsletter continued to grow steadily, with a 7 per cent increase recorded over the year. This EDM achieves an exceptional average open rate of 37 per cent, which is 16 per cent higher than the MailChimp platform averages.

Website traffic remained healthy throughout 2021, although did drop in comparison to the previous year. A strong benchmark was set in 2020 due to exceptional engagement with *Griffith Review 68: Getting On* and focused campaigns to promote the launch of the 'Through the Window' and 'Elemental Summer' online publishing initiatives. Free-to-access content is valuable for driving website traffic and building trust with new audiences but needs to be managed so as not to cannibalise paid content. The development of a detailed digital content strategy will be part of the development of the new website in 2022.

The redevelopment of *Griffith Review*'s website is a significant project in 2022 and we are investing time into mapping visitor journeys to improve the overall experience on the site, and deliver value to different audiences and interests (writers, readers, event attendees, subscribers, casual visitors). The new site will facilitate our ability to segment and automate our EDM marketing to support continued growth in traffic and engagement and to convert casual visitors to customers. The new platform will provide better data and analytics, and enable us to monitor the performance of editorial content and marketing initiatives.

	2020	2021	Change (%)
Twitter followers	11,739	12,204	+4%
Twitter impressions	765,100	775,800	+2%
Facebook page likes	5,824	6,013	+3%
Facebook reach	288,566	423,955	+50%
Instagram followers	2,034	2,760	+36%
Newsletter subscribers	5,340	5,682	+7%
Website page views	646,529	557,492	-14%



Engagement

A fundamental part of *Griffith Review*'s purpose – to publish great writing – is built on our commitment to ensuring the editorial process supports writers to develop the best possible work for publication. Contributors consistently note the value of the editorial process in post-publication feedback. Beyond the publication of individual work, the development of each edition around a theme continues to support the building of new connections between the writers within each edition, which frequently leads to further professional opportunities and networks. The significance of this has increased during an extended period of cancelled events, travel restrictions and lockdowns, with feedback from contributors highlighting the value of these connections.

The inaugural Emerging Voices competition attracted strong engagement from the creative-writing community, including positive feedback from creative-writing academics noting both the value of the opportunity provided by the prize and the resource created by the edition featuring the winners. The quantity (more than 300 submissions) and quality of the entries meant that in addition to the four winners, several longlisted writers will see their work published in 2022 editions.

Mentorships are also a key component of *Griffith Review*'s support for both emerging and established writers. The Griffith Review Varuna residency program continued in 2021, generously supported by the Graeme Wood Foundation (see picture, bottom right). Five writers were selected following a call-out for proposals aligning with the fourth edition for 2022, *Griffith Review 78: A Matter of Taste*. The residency, originally scheduled for October 2021 was postponed due to travel restrictions and took place in late February 2022.

The 'Unsettling the Status Quo' project delivered in partnership with the State Library of Queensland continues to support editorial mentoring for Grace Lucas-Pennington from the black&write! project, alongside commissions, editorial support and publication for First Nations writers, aligned with *Griffith Review*'s commitment to increase representation of First Nations writers across all editions.



Funding secured in 2021 through Queensland Arts Showcase Program is supporting the Griffith Review Writing Fellowships offering commissioning fees and mentorship support for eight Queensland-based writers to develop work for publication in 2022 editions. To date six fellowships have been awarded to Ellen Vickerman, Melanie Myers, Jay Phillips, Amy McQuire, Jasmin McGaughey, Sachém Parkin-Owens and Angela Willcock. Mentors include Laura Elvery, Melissa Lucashenko, David Stavanger and Omar Musa.

The website rebuild and development of a digital strategy will enable further consideration of resources and opportunities for writers. *Griffith Review* is interested in exploring ways to provide longer term employment for writers through regular columns or blog posts, alongside our existing edition-specific opportunities. Similarly, there is potential to expand our programming to include masterclasses and workshops supporting professional development and networking opportunities for writers.

Griffith Review participates in the 'Take Two' initiative set up by the Small Press Network that supports sales of joint subscriptions of Australian journals, including *Australian Book Review (ABR)*, *Island Magazine*, *Meanjin*, *Overland* and *Westerly*. This provides ongoing cross-promotion opportunities and is effective in driving sales.

Engagement with readers continues to centre around the weekly 'Great Reads' newsletter, with steady growth in subscribers over the year. 'Great Reads' allows us to utilise archive content alongside online exclusives and support work from other publications through reading recommendations. Partnership arrangements with a broad range of publishers provide weekly book giveaways, which in turn help promote upcoming releases by Australian writers.

A reader survey is planned for May 2022 to seek feedback from current and recently expired subscribers that will be used to inform aspects of the new website design along with broader commissioning plans going forward. A redesign of the print publication has been on the agenda for some time and survey feedback will also be used alongside a range of considerations that will feed into this project.

Wider engagement with readers (outside our existing subscriber base) is largely driven by festivals and events. A key focus in 2022 will be to build on existing relationships with independent booksellers to develop in-store events that support engagement with local readers and writers. Our relationship with Avid Reader in Brisbane highlights the value of engagement at a local level, with Queensland sales consistently above those in other states.

Within Griffith University, a new partnership with the Alumni Advancement team supported two events, one in Canberra as part of programming for *Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance* and a second originally planned to take place in Melbourne, but moved to online featuring contributors to *Griffith Review 73: Hey, Utopia!* The support from the Advancement team has extended well beyond events over the year and is indicative of the opportunities for *Griffith Review* to work with the wider university to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes, including alumni and external engagement.

Griffith Review gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support from multiple areas of the university, including office space, marketing, finance and HR.

Spotlit writers



Jo Chandler

Jo Chandler is an award-winning journalist, educator and author. She focuses on climate, science, environment and health issues, as well as the aid and development sector. She is the author of an acclaimed book on climate science, *Feeling the Heat* (MUP, 2011)

For *Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance*, Jo recast a piece of travel-based reportage into a work that could be made from Melbourne's long lockdown of 2020. Supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, through the Griffith Review Reportage Project, Jo's reportage 'Tales from the frontline' explores the emotional impacts of climate change from the isolation of lockdown, checking in with scientists whose work brings them up close and personal with the realities of our warming world. The piece was awarded a runner-up prize in the 2021 UNSW Bragg Prize for Science Writing. The Bragg's judges praised its combination of 'deep understanding of the science with personal reflections and responses'.



Nardi Simpson

Nardi Simpson is a Yuwaalaraay storyteller from NSW freshwater floodplain and the debut author of the award-winning novel *Song of the Crocodile* (Hachette, 2020).

Nardi's stunning essay 'Gifts across space and time' is the first collaboration to come from the 'Unsettling the Status Quo' project in partnership with black&write! editor Grace Lucas-Pennington, supported by the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund. Nardi's essay resonated with readers everywhere and has already been selected for tertiary reading lists.



Kate Cole-Adams

Kate Cole-Adams is a Melbourne-based writer and journalist. Her book *Anaesthesia: The Gift of Oblivion and the Mystery of Consciousness* (Text, 2017) won the Mark and Evette Moran Nib Literary Award and was shortlisted for the 2018 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards (non-fiction) and Melbourne Prize Best Writing Award.

In late 2019, Kate Cole-Adams received permission to follow and report on Australia's first clinical trial psychedelic medicine for palliative care patients, due to get underway early the following year. Working through Melbourne's lockdown, Cole-Adams continued to piece together the many sides of this rich and complex story, travelling with the researchers through their earliest administrations of the trial's doses. The depth and beauty of this essay saw Kate recognized as a finalist in the 2021 Finkel Foundation Eureka Prize for Long-Form Science Journalism for this work.



Steven Kennedy

Dr Steven Kennedy is Australia's nineteenth Secretary to the Treasury and the first to have worked as a registered nurse, later beginning professional training in psychiatric nursing. For *Griffith Review 72: States of Mind*, he accepted an invitation to discuss his intriguing workplace background in the context of the public service, economics, the pandemic's impact on mental health and more with Shane Wright, the senior economics correspondent for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

This conversation invited *Griffith Review's* readers behind the scenes of the federal economic response to the pandemic – and into the particular mindset and skillset of the man who found himself at the helm of advising on this response. It spoke to *Griffith Review's* long commitment to providing a bridge – an access point – between expert knowledge and general readership, and to looking for the story behind the story. Through Dr Kennedy's generous and thoughtful responses, the conversation opened a window on the day-to-day management of an unprecedented international event.



Hugh Possingham

A conservation scientist and mathematician, Hugh Possingham has held positions in the university, public and not-for profit sectors, including as Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy. In September 20, Professor Possingham became Queensland's Chief Scientist, bringing his passion for and focus on the merits and potentials of citizen science to this new arena of engagement.

He explores this commitment – and its critical accompaniment: information equity – in 'Power to the people', a passionate manifesto penned for *Griffith Review 73: Hey, Utopia!*

Professor Possingham is in person a passionate advocate for scientific literacy and engagement, and *Griffith Review* was grateful for his enthusiasm to promote this essay through media opportunities and social media engagement.



Image credit Sally Tsoutas

Jane Gleeson-White

Jane Gleeson-White is the author of four books, including *Double Entry* (2011), the internationally acclaimed history of accounting, and its sequel, *Six Capitals* (2014, revised 2020). Her writing on economics, sustainability and literature has appeared widely, including in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *Bloomberg* and *Sydney Review of Books*.

Her essay for *Griffith Review 73: Hey, Utopia!* was reprinted by *The Guardian*, generating international interest and specific engagement from around 300,000 readers. On the back of this essay, Jane spoke with the Scotonomics podcast and for conferences in Australia and overseas.

But most powerful, perhaps, was the response of Margaret Ford, who wrote from Canada:

It's difficult to describe the delight and relief with which I read your recent article... In my 88th year it seems that I've been waiting for this for a long time, and even occasionally attempting to express something of the same view but haltingly and hesitantly and with far less cogency, not expecting to be heard (though sometimes I was)...What I most appreciated in your article was that you had the courage and the wisdom to reject the dispassionate, lofty, academic, purely intellectual language of the conventional expert and to reveal your own deep emotion – entirely appropriate.

Griffith Review Emerging Voices winners 2021

The four winning works were selected by *Griffith Review* editorial staff and judges Rachel Bin Salleh (Magabala), Aviva Tuffield (UQP) and Robert Watkins (Ultimo Press) from over 300 submissions and published in *Griffith Review 74: Escape Routes*.



Declan Fry

Declan Fry is a writer, poet, critic and essayist. Born on Wongatha country in Kalgoorlie, he has written for *The Guardian*, *Saturday Paper*, *Overland*, *Australian Book Review*, *Meanjin*, *Liminal* and *Sydney Review of Books*, amongst others.

'Americano Sal' showcases the seductive snares of telling tales.



Alison Gibbs

Alison Gibbs runs her own writing consultancy producing copy for United Nations agencies and the not-for-profit sector. Her short stories have been published and broadcast in Australia and the UK. Her debut novel, *Repentance*, was published by Scribe in January 2021.

In 'Emily presents', a literary great is reanimated for the literary festival circuit.

Andrew Roff

Andrew Roff was the winner of the 2020 Peter Carey Short Story Award. His short fiction has appeared widely, and first collection will be published in 2022 by Wakefield Press.

'Camelopard' features a sporting mascot facing the end of the world.



Vijay Khurana

Vijay Khurana spent several years as a radio presenter and journalist before leaving broadcasting to focus on writing. His writing is published in *NOON*, *The Lifted Brow* and *Seizure*, amongst others.

'The menaced assassin' explores the perilous consequences of celebrity.

Staff

Emma Reason was appointed to the role of marketing and events co-ordinator on a full-time basis from February 2021, having covered the role on a casual basis for most of the previous year. This position is now part of the broader Griffith University marketing and communications team, which has brought several benefits, including closer connections with the wider university marketing and communications functions and opportunities to share information and knowledge.

The role of associate publisher was restructured to a general manager position and advertised mid-year ahead of the conclusion of Jane O’Hara’s contract in August. *Griffith Review* acknowledges the wonderful expertise and industry knowledge Jane brought to the organisation and for her work during a very challenging period for the sector. Katie Woods was appointed to the role of general manager and commenced in August 2021, having previously held roles with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Arts Queensland and the State Library of Queensland.

In September Julianne Schultz stepped down after three years as publisher (2018–2021) and eighteen years (sixty-two editions) as founding editor (2003–2018). *Griffith Review* acknowledges the extraordinary contribution made by Julianne to Australian cultural life over this time. Professor Scott Harrison, Pro Vice Chancellor of Arts, Education and Law, took up the role of publisher on Julianne’s retirement.

Business Support Co-ordinator Esha Buch commenced maternity leave on 20 December 2021. This position is being covered by Cieon Hilton for a period of approximately ten months (to end October 2022).

Publisher	Professor Julianne Schultz [advisory/consultative to September 2021] Professor Scott Harrison [advisory from September 2021]
Editor	Associate Professor Ashley Hay [0.9FTE to 1.0 FTE]
Associate Publisher	Jane O’Hara [0.8FTE to August 2021]
General Manager	Katie Woods [1.0 FTE from August 2021]
Managing Editor	John Tague [1.0FTE]
Senior Editor	Dr Carody Culver [0.8 FTE from August 2021]
Editorial Assistant	Lauren Mitchell [0.8FTE to Feb 2020]
Marketing and Event Co-ordinator	Emma Reason [casual Jan 2021; 1.0FTE from Feb 2021]
Business Support Coordinator	Esha Buch [1.0FTE to 20 December 2021; then maternity leave to October 2022] Cieon Hilton [casual December 2021; 1.0 FTE from Jan 2022]

Staff development

Plans for staff development linked to the new distribution arrangement with NewSouth Books were again postponed by travel restrictions in 2021 and will be reviewed in 2022. Marketing and Events Co-ordinator Emma Reason worked closely with colleagues in the Griffith University marketing and communications team to develop social media strategy, and with members of the university events team to develop her knowledge of CVENT, an events management and ticketing platform utilised by the university.

Senior Editor Carody Culver will co-edit the fourth edition of 2022 *Griffith Review 78: A Matter of Taste*, providing an opportunity for professional development in a significant commissioning role.

Internship program

In the second half of 2021 *Griffith Review* welcomed Brooke Maddison, a writing, editing and publishing student from the University of Queensland, for an eight-week internship focused on editorial and digital publishing activity. Brooke was able to complete most of the internship in person and was a great asset to the team over this period.

It is hoped that it will be possible to facilitate a greater number of internship/work integrated learning opportunities in 2022.

Finance and distribution

Griffith Review's annual donations campaign exceeded target for a second year in a row, outperforming previous years. Dr Cathryn Mittelhauser was again a significant donor, continuing her commitment to the vision of *Griffith Review*.

Griffith Review was again successful in securing project funding and philanthropic support in 2021, with successful grant applications to the Copyright Agency Cultural Fund and Arts Queensland to support the continuation of projects in 2022. Income from project funding and philanthropic support in 2021 totalled \$135,000, with an additional \$75,000 recorded as income in advance for projects in 2022.

The implementation of a revised partnership model supporting cross-edition funding resulted in a new partnership with the Whitlam Institute that will support publication of four conversation pieces to be published in each edition in 2022.

Overall sales and subscriptions remained stable across 2021, with total earned income consistent with 2020 outcomes. NewSouth sales representatives have been highly supportive and engaged, and with the resumption of interstate travel and events plans are underway to ensure that *Griffith Review* staff connect with independent booksellers outside of Queensland to build stronger relationships and explore event opportunities to support sales.

The significant issues with the *Griffith Review* website continued to cause challenges in 2021, particularly in relation to subscription management, creating an additional administrative burden for staff and restricting payment and renewal options for new and existing subscribers. In late 2021 a procurement process was undertaken for the rebuild of the website with quotes and proposals received from three potential vendors. The Code Company was awarded the contract with work scheduled to commence in April 2022. The Code Company work exclusively in WordPress sites for digital publishing and come highly recommended by other cultural and publishing organisations, including *Crikey* and *ArtsHub*. The new website is expected to go live in late July 2022 ahead of the publication of the third edition, *Griffith Review 77: Real Cool World*. The project not only includes the revision of subscription options, including auto-renewal, but will also provide a device-agnostic and scalable platform that will support increased audio and audio-visual content along with a more sophisticated search function enabling *Griffith Review* to better utilise the substantial archive of content available.

Griffith Review ran a subscription promotion from 8 November through to 23 December 2021, offering all new and renewing subscribers' entry into a prize draw, with seven prize packs (each valued at \$200) on offer, with one winner drawn from eligible subscribers in each state and territory. This campaign also included the offer of a free digital subscription for any new or renewing subscriber to gift to a friend or family member. These offers were promoted across all of *Griffith Review*'s channels – social media, website and eNews as well as paid promotion with *The Saturday Paper* and *Campus Morning Mail*. This campaign was successful in driving subscription sales with a 17 per cent increase in revenue for the period compared to the previous year.

Governance and operations

2021 marked the fifth year since the establishment of the Griffith Review Advisory Committee, with a meeting in the first week of December.

Several vacancies were filled in 2021 with literary agent Alex Adsett and CEO of NewSouth Books Kathy Bail joining the committee, bringing with them a wealth of experience and knowledge of the literary sector both in Australia and internationally.

Anne Tiernan resigned from her position at Griffith University to manage her consultancy Constellation Impact Advisory but has generously agreed to remain on the advisory board.

The current advisory committee includes:

Professor Scott Harrison (Chair)	Pro Vice Chancellor (AEL), Griffith University
Ms Alex Adsett	Literary Agent, Alex Adsett Publishing
Ms Kathy Bail	CEO NewSouth Books
Professor Susan Forde	Director, Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University
Professor David Grant	Pro Vice Chancellor (Business), Griffith University
Mr Phillip Stork	Vice President Marketing and Communications, Griffith University
Ms Maureen Sullivan	University Librarian, Griffith University
Professor Anne Tiernan	Dean (Engagement), Griffith Business School
Ms Fiona Stager	Owner and Manager, Avid Reader Bookshop & Café
Ms Melissa Lucashenko	Author and <i>Griffith Review</i> Contributor

At the December meeting of the advisory committee the benefits of a smaller sub-committee to advise *Griffith Review* staff on significant projects including the redevelopment of the website and a potential redesign of the print publication were discussed, and it was agreed that this would be explored in 2022.

Griffith Review continues to complete quarterly reporting aligned with the publication window for each edition produced annually, which include sales, ASR reach and dollar values and marketing and social media outcomes, along with details of events and activities and contributor outcomes for the quarter.

The distribution arrangement with NewSouth Books is working well, with regular briefings to sales representatives ahead of each edition. Travel restrictions during 2021 prevented *Griffith Review* staff from meeting with sales reps in person or visiting independent booksellers but this will be explored again in 2022.

Contributor highlights

Griffith Review contributors were widely recognised in award programs around Australia and internationally in 2021, including a number of awards for work commissioned or initiated by *Griffith Review*. Both Nicole Hasham and Jo Chandler were shortlisted for the 2021 Bragg Prize for Science Writing for work published in *Griffith Review*, with Jo Chandler awarded a runner-up place for her reportage on the emotional impacts of climate change (developed as part of the Reportage Project supported by the Copyright Agency). David Thomas Henry Wright won the 2021 Carmel Bird Digital Literary Award for ‘A Condensed History of the Australian Camel’, an expansion of the project he developed for *Griffith Review*, and Alex Mankiewicz was shortlisted for The Comic Arts Awards of Australia 2021 for ‘Ministry of Truth 20/20’, published in *Griffith Review 67: Matters of Trust*. Three of the five non-fiction nominations in the 2021 Prime Minister’s Literary Awards went to *Griffith Review* contributors Tegan Bennett-Daylight, Cassandra Pybus and Suzanne Smith for work initiated or developed from *Griffith Review* commissions.

Bruce Pascoe was awarded the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) 2021 Medal. Laura Jean McKay won a suite of awards for her debut novel *The Animals in that Country* (Scribe, 2020), including the Victorian Prize for Literature, the ABIA Small Publishers Adult Book of the Year Award and the Arthur C Clarke Award. Nardi Simpson’s debut novel *Song of the Crocodile* (Hachette, 2020) appeared on numerous shortlists, including the Voss Literary Prize, the Age Book of the Year Award, the ABA Neilsen Booksellers Choice Adult Fiction book of the year, and the Miles Franklin Award. *Song of the Crocodile* was awarded the 2021 Australian Literary Society (ALS) Gold Medal. Ellen van Neerven scooped the 2021 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards with their poetry collection *Throat* (UQP). Van Neerven’s collection was awarded the overall \$10,000 book of the year award, as well as the \$30,000 Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry and the \$20,000 Multicultural NSW Award. Amanda Lohrey also took out a suite of awards for her novel *The Labyrinth* (Text), including the fiction prize in the 2021 Prime Minister’s Literary Awards. Rebecca Giggs was awarded the WA Premier’s Prize for an Emerging Writer.

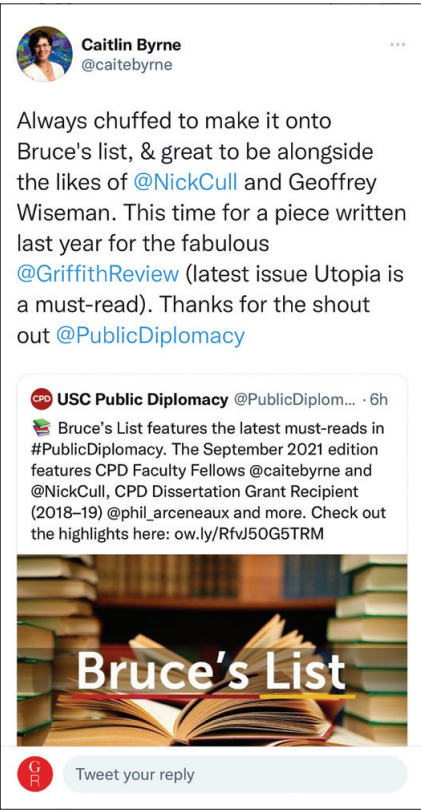
It is always rewarding to see major publication outcomes for *Griffith Review* contributors, and there was a long list of these in 2021. A few highlights include:

The publication of Charlotte Wood’s non-fiction book *The Luminous Solution* by Allen & Unwin in September 2021. This work expands on previously published essays by Wood, including an essay for *Griffith Review 68: Getting On*. Fiona Murphy’s memoir *The Shape of Sound* was published by Text Publishing. Fiona attended a Griffith Review Varuna Residency in 2019. Ian Lowe published *A Long Half-Life* with Monash Publishing. Ian’s work on this book was assisted through a Griffith Review Arts Queensland Fellowship and an essay published in *Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance*.

Wakefield Press acquired worldwide rights to Andrew Roff’s debut short fiction collection *The Teeth of a Slow Machine*, which includes his short story first published in *Griffith Review 64: The New Disruptors*. Joëlle Gergis sold worldwide rights to *Witnessing the Unthinkable: Notes from the Front Line of the Climate Crisis* to Black Inc. The book will be published in the second half of 2022.

Similarly, it is immensely satisfying to see work published in *Griffith Review* go on to have a life well beyond the initial publication window for each edition. Nardi Simpson’s essay ‘Gifts across space and time’, published in *Griffith Review 71: Remaking the Balance*, was selected as a text for the QUT Editing and Publishing program. Kristen Rundle’s essay ‘Orphaned responsibility’ for *Griffith Review 73: Hey, Utopia!* has been included as a set reading in a new Melbourne Law School masters course (for the Melbourne Law Masters program). Caitlin Byrnes’ essay for *Griffith Review 67: Matters of Trust* was featured on the University of Southern California must reads on Public Diplomacy ‘Bruce’s List’.

Griffith Review contributors also featured in Australia Day honours, with James Bradley and Alice Pung both awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to literature as a writer. Alan Finkel was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC).



Statistical overview

<div>Contributors</div> <div>172</div> <div>(-3%)</div>	<div>Events</div> <div>21</div> <div>(-16%)</div>	<div>Media placements</div> <div>142</div> <div>(-29%)</div>	<div>Media audience reach</div> <div>\$16.5 million</div> <div>(-50%)</div>
<div>Media value</div> <div>\$9.2 million</div> <div>(+2%)</div>	<div>Facebook reach</div> <div>433k</div> <div>(+50%)</div>	<div>Twitter followers</div> <div>12k+</div> <div>(+4%)</div>	<div>Instagram followers</div> <div>2.7k</div> <div>(+36%)</div>
<div>Website page views</div> <div>557k</div> <div>(-14%)</div>	<div>Great Reads subscribers</div> <div>5.5k+</div> <div>(+7%)</div>	<div>Audited Sales and Subscriptions</div> <div>\$92k</div> <div>(-1%)</div>	<div>Total earned income</div> <div>(excluding grants and in-kind sponsorship)</div> <div>\$163k</div> <div>(-23%)</div>
<div>Annual appeal</div> <div>\$39k</div> <div>(+3%)</div>			

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