



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

GriffithReview



Key partners



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From the publisher



Griffith Review has always sought to engage with the big issues of the day – from terrorism to climate change, social cohesion to sport, gender to inter-generational equity. In many ways 2018 was the most ambitious and successful in our fifteen years, as this report details.

The four editions published last year teased out some of the layers and complexity of Australian identity. Co-editors and contributors rose to the challenge and ranged widely, addressing themes from First Nations and colonialism to the creation of a multicultural nation which values equality, bringing new perspectives and urgency to a simmering national conversation.

When Griffith University became an official partner of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, *Griffith Review* was keen to be involved. The Games was the biggest event in Queensland, and arguably the nation that year. Tens of thousands of athletes, officials, leaders of governments and business, and tourists flocked to the Gold Coast in April 2018, providing new opportunities for cultural exchange, trade and political dialogue.

Our interest was not only in the sport, but in the opportunity to explore what the Commonwealth of Nations meant seventy years after the end of the British Empire, and two years after the British people had voted to leave the European Union. It also provided a unique opportunity to explore the enduring cultural and political relationship between the fifty-three countries; what did we share in common, what differed, how had the past been reconciled and was there a collective sense of how these countries who make up a third of the world's population might engage with the big issues of the day?

The thirty-one writers from eighteen countries who we published in *Commonwealth Now* were drawn together thanks to the skills and networks of Jane Camens, the founding director

of Asia Pacific Writers and Translators, and Lucy Hannah, the former director of Commonwealth Writers at the Commonwealth Foundation in London. The conversations and exchanges that followed at events in Australia and in New Zealand, England, the Bahamas, Scotland and Malaysia, with support from the British Council, WOW Festival 2018, Pen Sydney and the Edinburgh Festival, were revealing and provocative. We answered the question posed at the Commonwealth People's Forum event – there was an enduring cultural legacy that touched the lives of many.

Commonwealth Now set the scene for our first dedicated Indigenous edition, *First Things First*. *Griffith Review* has strived to include Indigenous writers in every edition. Following the Uluru Statement from the Heart in 2017, and its subsequent rejection by the Turnbull government, we felt there was an urgent need to devote an entire edition to one of the most pressing national issues – meaningful recognition, dialogue and engagement between the First Australians and those who arrived over the past two hundred and thirty years. Generous support from Queensland University of Technology made this possible.

First Things First explored the process that led to the Uluru Statement, the underlying issues which informed it and the urgent ongoing need to reset relations and ensure proper representation of the First Australians in public life. Again the range of contributors was a tribute to the co-editor. Dr Sandra Phillips, a highly regarded Indigenous scholar and publisher, drew on her networks to ensure that new voices were introduced to the national conversation and a wide range of views were presented. There is not one perspective on these pressing issues, but the respectful presentation of different points of view ensured that the richness and originality of this edition will resonate for a long time. *First Things First* was widely syndicated, broadcast and warmly reviewed, and was discussed by panels in Sydney, Canberra, Byron Bay, Edinburgh and George Town, and reached millions of people.

It was a matter of sadness that the distinguished journalist Michael Gordon, who was writing about the politics that led to the government's rejection of the Uluru Statement, passed away before he was able to complete what promised to be an important report. His loss was keenly felt, particularly in Indigenous and journalism communities.

*‘In many ways 2018 was
the most ambitious and
successful in our fifteen years’*

Australia’s population has grown dramatically over the past decade as increased migration under a complex array of new visas have enabled hundreds of thousands of people to settle here. Although polls show that this has (until very recently) been welcomed by most Australians, the long-standing bipartisan public discussion about migration and multiculturalism has ruptured. Migration remains a central pillar of economic and social policy, but the debate has again become heated and contested. Former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull loved to say that Australia was the most successful multicultural nation in the world, and in *Who We Are* we sought to test this and assess what might need to be done to ensure it remained true.

Who We Are drew contributors from a wide range of backgrounds, and explored the contemporary and historic nature of the multiculturalism. Peter Mares, the author of numerous books on migration policy, was an exemplary co-editor, drawing on his deep network of writers and thinkers to ensure that the debate was presented with rigour and insight. For Griffith University’s Policy Innovation Hub, which sponsored the edition, this provided an opportunity for urgent policy questions to be developed through stories and debates. Contributions to *Who We Are* were widely syndicated and many authors were interviewed, ensuring that the ideas developed in the edition reached a very large national audience. As *The Saturday Paper* wrote in a glowing review, ‘Over the years, it is the emphasis on reportage that has made *Griffith Review* so consistently interesting.’

The series concluded with *All Being Equal*, the sixth in our series of annual novella competitions supported by Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund, and the first under the direction of incoming editor Dr Ashley Hay. Contributors were invited to reflect on the big questions of equality in their novellas as publication of *All Being Equal* coincided with the anniversary of the same-sex marriage postal survey which led to changes to the marriage law. Five novellas by emerging writers were selected from an impressive field of contributions and were assessed by external judges Benjamin Law, Aviva Tuffield, Dennis Altman and Melissa Lucashenko. In addition to these stories, the work of three 2018 Griffith Review Queensland Writing Fellows were also included in *All Being Equal*, with stories and memoirs that explored tensions within families. As Sharon Verghis noted in *The Australian*: ‘The ambiguities and complexities of gay life in Australia also come vividly alive.’

During this year *Griffith Review* continued to provide opportunities for writers to reach new audiences and develop their professional skill with fellowships and editorial support. This year was notable for the number of books by authors published and championed by *Griffith Review*, including Holly Ringland’s *Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*, Meera Atkinson’s *Traumata*, Billy Griffiths’s *Deep Time Dreaming*, Gabbie Stroud’s *Teacher*, Michelle Law’s *Single Asian Female*, Peter Cochrane’s *Best We Forget*, Nadia Wheatley’s *Her Mother’s Daughter*, Bri Lee’s *Eggshell Skull*, Kris Olsson’s *Shell* and Melissa Lucashenko’s *Too Much Lip*.

This year also marked the end of my fifteen exciting, challenging and rewarding years as editor of *Griffith Review*. With the appointment of Dr Ashley Hay as editor I became publisher of Griffith Review and Professor of Media and Culture in the University’s Centre for Social and Cultural Research. I have every confidence that under Ashley’s editorial leadership, with a skilled team and network of supporters, *Griffith Review* will continue to thrive, providing opportunities for writers and readers to enrich public life in this country, and beyond.



Professor Julianne Schultz AM FAHA
Publisher, Griffith Review

Editions



Commonwealth Now

29 January

The Commonwealth of Nations represents a third of the world: the people and countries once part of the British Empire. But finding a new shared rationale is a challenge. *Commonwealth Now* showcases writers from twenty-five countries, whose diverse voices shine light on enduring imperial legacies. With passion and flair they interrogate common histories. Published with the support of Queensland Government to coincide with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.



First Things First

29 April

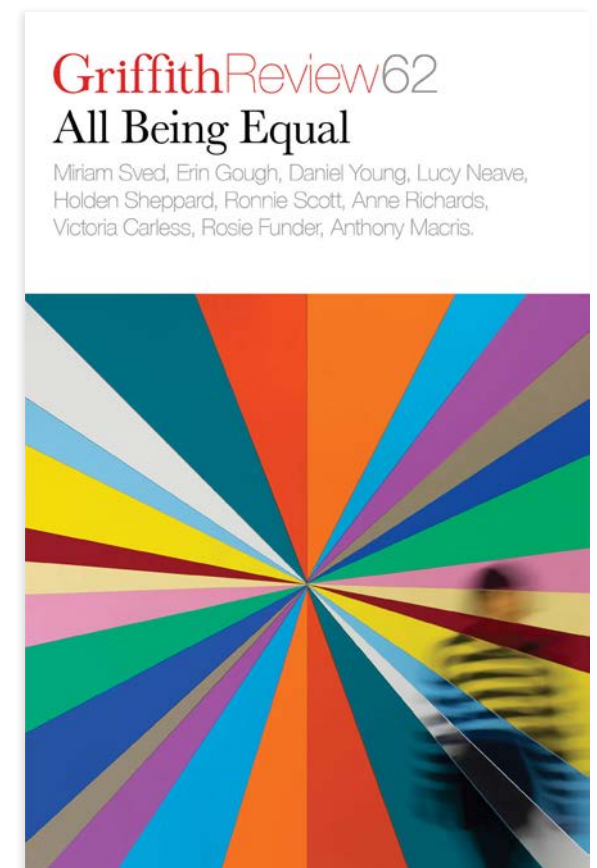
The Uluru Statement from the Heart was a significant event for Australia. But in order for First Nations sovereignty to 'shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood', much still needs to be done. *First Things First* brings together robust Indigenous and non-Indigenous voices to consider the shifts that must occur in order for Makarrata – the coming together after a struggle – to be realised beyond symbolism, and for centuries of unresolved disputes to be reconciled.



Who We Are

29 July

Australia has been one of the great success stories of multiculturalism. But refashioning this in a meaningful way for the twenty-first century won't happen by chance; it will require active encouragement, and a more honest exploration of the costs and benefits of being a settler society. Through the voices of the newly arrived and the long-settled, with passion and optimism, *Who We Are* aims to foster a conversation about our national identity, and about what we might become.



All Being Equal

29 October

In 2017, Australia said 'Yes' to same-sex marriage – a momentous event that confirmed the nation's appetite for change and equality. Twelve months later, *All Being Equal* presents stories that predate, anticipate and celebrate that historic moment: stories of love and despair; stories of families, protest and war. Featuring the winners of the sixth novella project, this edition maps the richness and complexity of Australia past and present.

Quarterly activities



February – April

Griffith Review 59: Commonwealth Now

Edited by Julianne Schultz and Jane Camens

Griffith Review 59: Commonwealth Now was one of only three cultural programs successful in receiving funding from the Queensland Government to create a legacy marking the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Featuring thirty-one writers from Australia and other Commonwealth countries, *Commonwealth Now* enjoyed strong media coverage, igniting passionate public debate about the ongoing role of the Commonwealth.

Andrew Baines's original artwork, 'Waiting for my boat to come in', featured on the cover of this edition. Andrew's installation 'Water Cooler

Games' featured in Festival2018, the cultural festival that ran concurrently to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

This edition was supported by an events program that took place in ten cities across five countries. Highlights included a collaboration with WOW at Festival 2018 through which, with the support of the British Council, Griffith Review toured international contributors including publishers Margaret Busby (UK), Urvashi Butalia (India), Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm (Canada) and author Annie Zaidi (India) to present at the Brisbane Festival. Also, with the support of PEN Sydney, respected human rights campaigner Salil Tripathi travelled to Australia to participate in events in Brisbane and Sydney.

International events included panels at Wellington Writers' Week (NZ), King's College in London (UK) and Edinburgh Book Festival (UK); a salon at Bocas Lit Fest (Trinidad and Tobago); and an in-conversation at Georgetown Literature Festival (Malaysia).



Selina Tusitala Marsh, Jenny Hocking and Julianne Schultz at WOWFestival2018 in Brisbane.

'*Griffith Review* continues to provide a timely focus on contemporary topics through its high calibre collection of literary works. *Commonwealth Now* certainly delivers on its objective and will no doubt continue much thought and discussion to coincide with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.'

Graham Quirk, former Lord Mayor of Brisbane

'Several of the articles are outstanding.'
The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

'It is exactly the right balance of exploratory, insightful, reflective and critical.'

Lucy Hannah, founder of Commonwealth Writers

'*Griffith Review 59* again brings together an excellent set of essays.'
Professor Ken Smith, Dean and CEO ANZSOG.

Publication partners



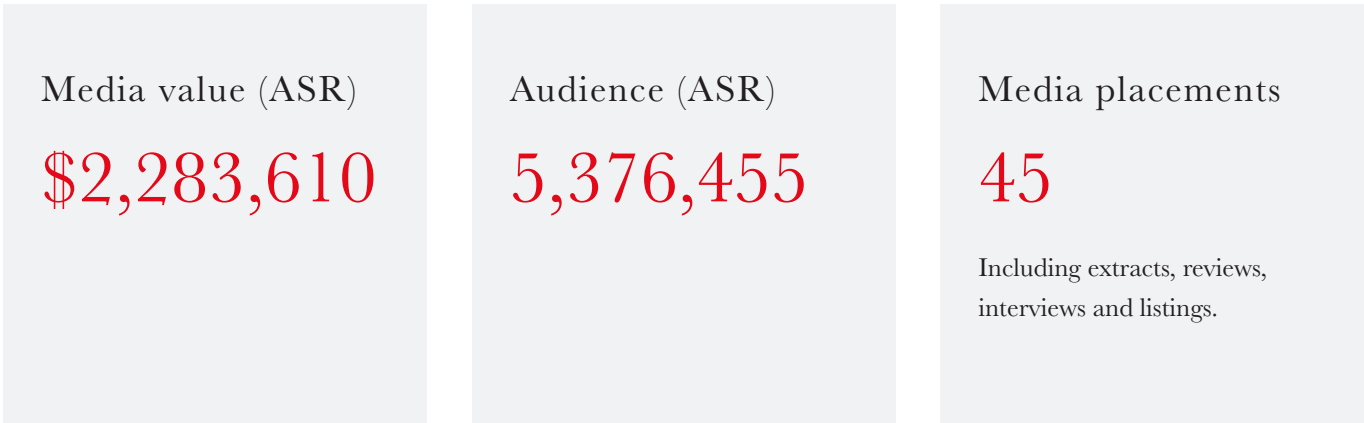
**Queensland
Government**



Celebrating the Women of the Commonwealth

**Festival
2018**





Highlights include:

- ABC Radio National
- *The Conversation*
- *The Guardian*
- *Inside Story*
- *Australian Business*

Articles from *Commonwealth Now* were featured on:

- *The Conversation*
- *The Guardian*
- *The Guardian UK*
- *Inside Story*
- *Viw*
- *News Pronto*
- *Daily Bulletin*



Saili Tripathi, Geraldine Doogue and Peter Greste following the panel hosted by Julianne Schultz at the Queensland Conservatorium.



Australia:

- Including events at The Wheeler Centre, Melbourne, and at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, State Library of New South Wales, and The Queensland Conservatorium
- Special events at the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney

International:

- Panel at Commonwealth People’s Forum, London
- Panel at King’s College, London
- Keynote at Edinburgh International Book Festival
- Panel at Georgetown Literary Festival, Malaysia
- Panel at Wellington Writers’ Week

Contributors value their

publication in *Griffith Review*:

- ‘Being edited by an editor outside of Canada [was valuable]. That perspective was interesting and valuable.’ – Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm
- ‘Very high quality and makes for very interesting reading on a hitherto neglected topic. The sense of being heard in a prestigious journal as a minority writer is unbelievably empowering.’ – Melissa Lucashenko
- ‘It shines the torch on the colonial legacy but more than that, we gain from seeing so many different voices from ex-colonised nations in one volume. Our ideas of what the colonial enterprise means, and how a people judge a former colonial power after that enterprise ends grow in nuance.’ – Annie Zaidi

Including:

- 10 essays
- 9 memoir
- 4 reportage
- 5 online-only
- 4 fiction
- 3 poetry

Quarterly activities

GriffithReview60 First Things First

Megan Davis, Stan Grant, Tony Birch, Marcia Langton, Bruce Pascoe, Melissa Lucashenko, Sandra Phillips, Alexis Wright, Patrick Dodson, Ali Cobby Eckermann.



May – July

Griffith Review 60: First Things First Edited by Julianne Schultz and Sandra Phillips

First Things First was an important publication for *Griffith Review*. *Griffith Review* has always had a commitment to publishing Indigenous writers and exploring Indigenous issues in every edition. In May 2017, when the Uluru statement of the Heart was presented to the nation, it was clear that the time had come to devote a whole edition to this important subject. QUT agreed to partner with us on this publication, and Dr Sandra Phillips was appointed as co-editor. Dr Phillips reflects:

'First Things First was a timely bridge from the formal political rejection of the Uluru Statement to the ongoing people's movement for change in the relationship between Indigenous Australians and Australia.'

This edition received extensive coverage, high social media engagement and featured at events in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and Malaysia. Audiences for the year peaked at 9.5 million through media coverage and syndicated publication in *The Guardian* and *The Conversation*.

Publication partners



Queensland
Government



Co-editor Sandra Phillips and Melissa Lucashenko about to discuss *Griffith Review 60: First Things First* at Brisbane Writers' Festival.

'...there is much that is positive and forward-thinking in this significant collection. Just as the existence of the Uluru Statement itself has gathered physical momentum these past 12 months...there is evidence of hope.'

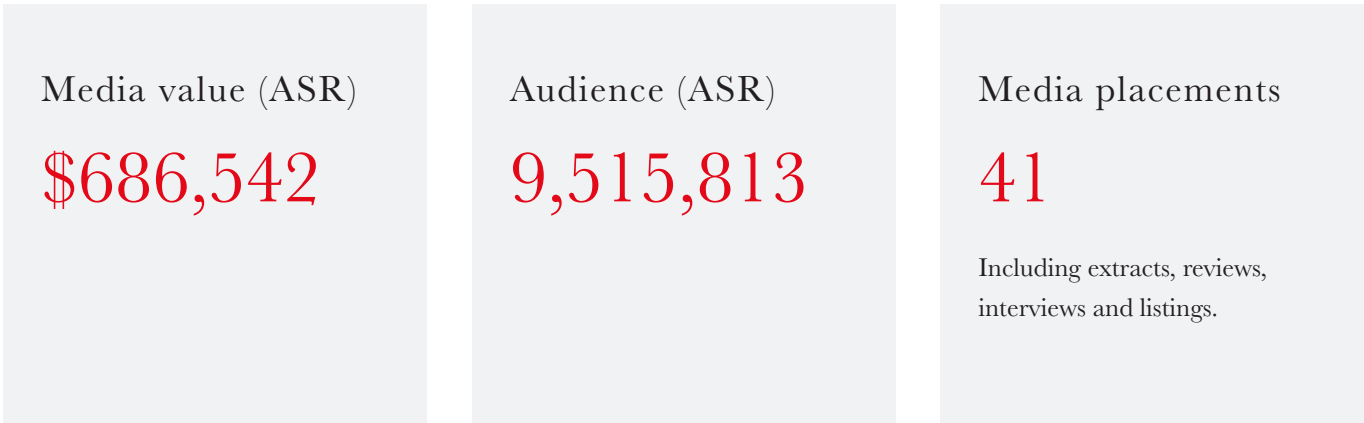
Stephen Fitzpatrick, *The Australian*

'This outstanding collection of essays, reportage, memoir, poetry and fiction represents an urgent call to action and adds substantially to a rising tide of voices calling on the federal government to reconsider its rejection of the Uluru Statement... The unique contribution of *First Things First* is the breadth and diversity of its vision... Taken as one, the contributions...map the intricate web of Indigenous aspirations and policy challenges in the full context of Australia's history and contemporary politics.... it's impossible to read this collection and not come away feeling hopeful.'

Mark McKenna, *Honest History*

'I think it was an amazing job to bring together so many different and respected Indigenous voices into the one edition. It provided an opportunity to show the depth and variety of Indigenous scholarship and advocacy in this area – while also showing that we are basically on the same page in what we want for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from government.'

Maggie Walter



Highlights include:

- ABC Online
- *ABC RN Big Ideas*
- *ABC RN Religion and Ethics Report*
- *The Weekend Australian*
- *The Guardian*

Highlights include:

- Extracts published in *The Conversation* and *The Guardian*
- Four extracts published in *The Guardian*
- Twenty-eight radio interviews and podcasts



Stan Grant delivers an address at the Vice Chancellor's Forum (QUT) during Reconciliation Week 2018.



Highlights:

- Sold-out launch at Avid Reader in Brisbane
- Vice Chancellor's Forum at QUT with Stan Grant
- Melbourne seminar at the Australian and New Zealand School of Government (ANZSOG)
- Brisbane Writers Festival
- Byron Bay Writers Festival
- Sydney Writers Festival

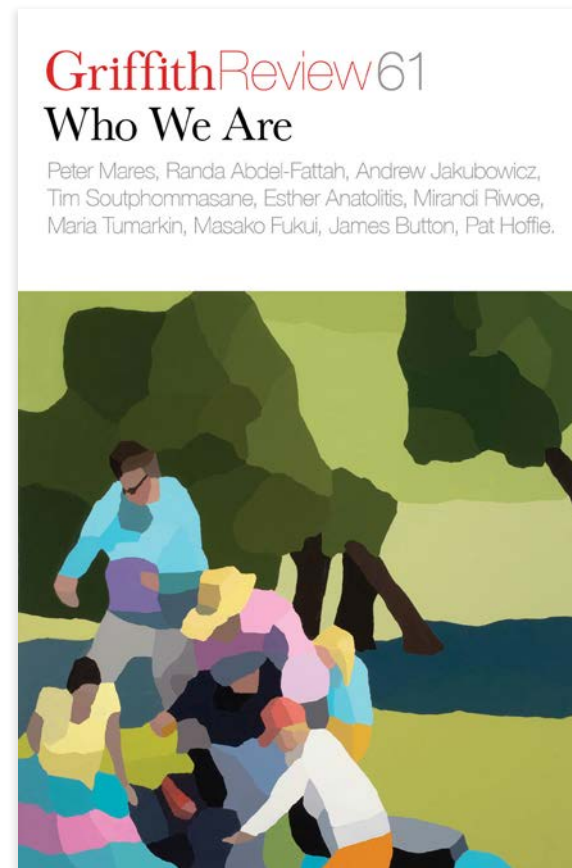
Contributors were proud to be published in *First Things First*:

- 'This was a remarkable edition, prescient in its commissioning and publication in light of government missteps after Uluru. The voices were diverse and insightful.' Paul Daley
- 'It's very comprehensive, timely, relevant & useful across a broad range of disciplines.' Joanne Watson
- 'As a non-Indigenous writer who often writes on matters to do with Indigenous people, I appreciate the openness of *Griffith Review* to including a piece from me, the faith of the editors in my integrity as a writer and journalist...' Kierane Finnane

Including:

- 20 essays
- 4 memoir
- 3 reportage
- 5 online-only
- 2 fiction
- 2 poetry

Quarterly activities



August – October

Griffith Review 61: Who We Are Edited by Julianne Schultz and Peter Mares

Who We are explored how patterns of migration have evolved and changed, and their consequences.

Supported by Griffith University's Policy Innovation Hub and co-edited by author Peter Mares, this edition had an immediate impact on public discussion with very high levels of media engagement, extensive social media activity and well-attended events.

As Mares observed, 'The most remarkable aspect of co-editing *Who We Are* was witnessing the extraordinary scale, range and diversity of often unsolicited contributions. We tapped into a deep vein of concern about what it means to be

Australian, not in some abstract way, but in terms of the ethical responsibilities and practical policy changes that emerge from our unsettled past and our unsettling present.'

Publication partner



Ashley Hay, co-editor Peter Mares, Donna Lu and Mirandi Riwoe discuss *Griffith Review 61: Who We Are* at the Brisbane launch at Avid Reader

'...the lead essay by James Button and Abul Rizvi is essential reading. It offers a concise but clear-eyed account of our nearly total dependence on skilled immigrants for continued economic prosperity and challenges our leaders to break with the decades-long habit of undermining public debate about the implications of this dependence... Over the years, it is the emphasis on reportage that has made *Griffith Review* so consistently interesting and worth reading. Its regular dispatches from people working in the community – whether teachers, doctors, social workers or whoever – have given it the kind of lived-in vitality that few other publications can offer.'

The Saturday Paper

Media value (ASR) \$787,916	Audience (ASR) 9,403,323	Media placements 42 Including extracts, reviews, interviews and listings.
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Publication highlights:

- NITV Radio / SBS Radio
- ABC RN Breakfast
- ABC RN Religion and Ethics Report
- *The Conversation*
- *The Guardian*
- *The Saturday Paper*

Media highlights:

- Extracts published in *The Conversation*, *The Guardian*, *Inside Story* and *The Mandarin*
- Fifteen radio interviews



Events 6	Contributors 32	Total word count 129,524
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Event highlights:

- Sold-out launch at Avid Reader in Brisbane
- Panels at Brisbane Writers Festival and Asia Pacific Writers and Translators conference
- Julianne Schultz delivered the Inaugural Professional Lecture for the Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research at the State Library of Queensland
- Julianne Schultz delivered the 49th Annual Academy Lecture at the State Library of New South Wales

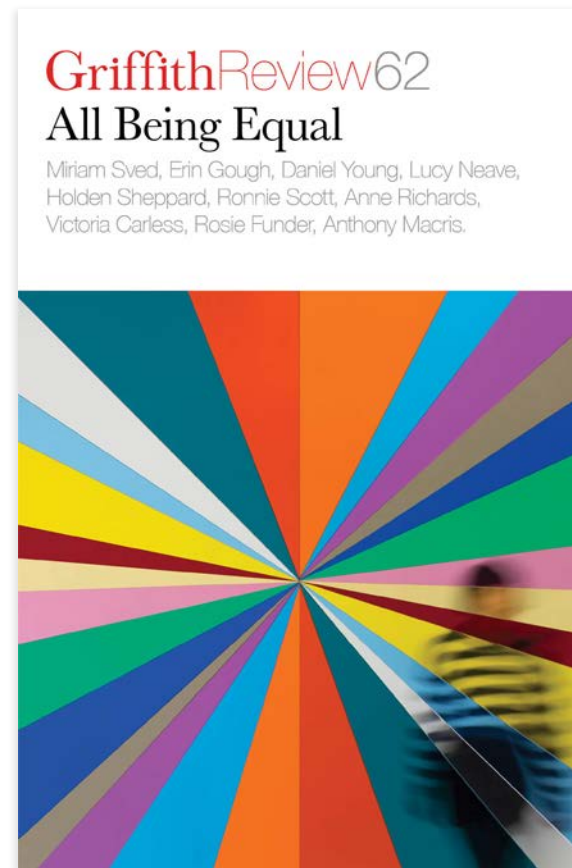
Contributors valued the edition:

- ‘Fantastic theme, especially following *First Things First*. [*Griffith Review* is] a great platform for opening new publishing doors.’ Ben Falkenmire
- ‘It’s very thoughtful, sometimes confronting with the frustrations of this moment in our history.’ Anna Maria Dell’oso
- ‘It’s a wonderful compilation filled with fascinating reflection and game-changing writing. I am very proud to be part of it. It didn’t feel like a purely commercial exercise, but an attempt to contribute to and stimulate – responsibly – the national conversation and thought process.’ Annabel Stafford

Including:

- 18 essays
- 3 memoir
- 4 reportage
- 10 online-only
- 4 fiction
- 3 poetry

Quarterly activities



November – January

Griffith Review 62: All Being Equal – The Novella Project VI

Edited by Ashley Hay

All Being Equal, the sixth edition of our annual novella competition supported by Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund, was conceptualised in part to mark the one-year anniversary of Australia's same-sex marriage postal survey.

Five novellas, all written by emerging authors, were published alongside work by three 2018 Griffith Review Queensland Writing Fellows in this edition. Exploring the textures of equality in all its forms, *All Being Equal* tapped into the spirit of the time and was popular in bookstores at events in Brisbane, Perth and the Gold Coast.

In addition to this, *Griffith Review* launched Novella

November: an online festival promoting and profiling the novella form, featuring original notes and tips from Helen Garner, Nick Earls, Michelle de Kretser and many more. Throughout December and January, outstanding fiction and memoir was also drawn from *Griffith Review*'s rich archives as part of the inaugural Summer of Sunday Reading series.

All Being Equal also marked the first edition by incoming editor Dr Ashley Hay, a distinguished journalist, author and editor, who joined the *Griffith Review* team in June.

Publication partners

COPYRIGHTAGENCY
CULTURAL FUND



Queensland
Government

SL State Library
of Queensland



Ashley Hay, Erin Gough and Benjamin Law at 'More Than 'Yes' or 'No'', *Griffith Review*'s first Lightning Talk

'The ambiguities and complexities of gay life in Australia also come vividly alive in the short stories included in *All Being Equal*... Wounds from our own brokenness, our own experiences, are the thread that runs through these stories.' **Sharon Verghis, *The Australian***

'I would like to congratulate *Griffith Review* on this publication and on the success of the Novella Project in reviving and showcasing the novella as a literary genre. It is also wonderful to see the work of the three 2017 Griffith Review Queensland Writing Fellows featured in the publication. Thank you for your work in supporting Queensland and Australian writers...' **Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts**

'This edition is a fitting tribute to the anniversary of the same-sex marriage postal survey and the significance it holds in our nation's history. Undoubtedly, this will be a point of discussion on what it means to be Australian for years to come.'

Graham Quirk, Lord Mayor of Brisbane

Media value (ASR) \$96,849	Audience (ASR) 4,378,341	Media placements 11 Including extracts, reviews, interviews and listings.
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Publication highlights:

- NITV Radio / SBS Radio
- ABC Radio Brisbane Afternoons
- ABC Radio Sydney FOCUS
- *The Guardian*
- *The Weekend Australian*

Media highlights:

- Extract published in *The Guardian*
- Reviews published in *The Weekend Australian* and *PS News*



Review of All Being Equal in The Weekend Australian

Events 4	Contributors 11	Total word count 98,980
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Event highlights:

- Free launches at Avid Reader in Brisbane and Tribe in Perth
- Panel at the Asia Pacific Writers and Translators conference
- Free Lightning Talk featuring Ashley Hay (chair), Benjamin Law and Erin Gough at Griffith University, Gold Coast campus, presented with Griffith Libraries and Learning Services

Winners relished the experience:

- ‘The stories were high quality and in conversation with each other. It was such an honour and a privilege to be published in a high quality and well-respected publication as the *Griffith Review*, among great writers. I greatly appreciate the opportunity.’ Erin Gough
- ‘This edition is fantastic – the novellas complement each other so well by exploring different elements of the gay experience in multiple facets. A genuine triumph. Fantastic and super helpful editorial team – the crew at *Griffith Review* really know how to take care of and nurture authors, especially emerging ones like myself. Thank you!’ Holden Sheppard

Including:

- 6 fiction
- 3 non-fiction
- 1 poetry

Online publishing program

In 2018, *Griffith Review* continued to publish in digital forms (PDF, Kindle, e-publication). Each quarterly edition was also supported with a suite of online-only articles available to the public. These articles generated traction with online audiences, and were viewed 451,597 times; standout pieces were Jude Kelly's 'Learning from experience', C August Elliott's 'Return to country' and Nathania Gilson's 'In between the in-between'. This year, *Griffith Review* confirmed the ongoing partnership with The Nature Conservancy to develop the winner of the 2019 Nature Writing Prize for publication.

Atavist (multimedia)

Griffith Review continued to publish exclusive work using the Atavist platform in 2018.



When British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson quoted the poem "Mandalay" during a visit to Myanmar in early 2017...it was a stark reminder that popular culture can sometimes intrude on worldly affairs.

In **'Biggles in Burma'**, Andrew Selth investigates WE Johns's continuing influence through popular culture.



I am not aware of a single mission or settlement, apart from Cherbourg, that allowed or encouraged sport. Certainly there were no facilities or fields for play.

In **'Racial hurdles'**, Colin Tatz sets the traumatic past of Aboriginal and Islander people since the 1800s against an ongoing history of outstanding sporting achievement.



Judge Paul's ideas were different. I can see quite clearly that from his experience in Japan he pinpointed what he thought a functional modern home for a hot climate could be: open, airy and spacious, with as little furniture as possible.

In **'A Japanese house'**, Jill Barker explores an interesting episode in Brisbane's architectural history, revealing what it took to transplant one entire house from Kobe, Japan.

Partnerships and programs

Throughout the year, *Griffith Review* delivered programs supported by extant grants and partnerships, and secured further funding to offer these in future years.

Australia Council for the Arts



In 2018, *Griffith Review* operated with the support of The Australia Council for the Arts' Four Year Funded Organisation program. This was the second year of the program, which concludes at the end of 2020. *Griffith Review* submitted an expression of interest to apply for the 2021–2024 round in April 2019. Eligibility to apply for the full round will be advised in July, with the grant closing in October 2019.

Copyright Agency Cultural Fund



Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund supported the sixth edition of the annual novella series. In December, *Griffith Review* successfully obtained three-year funding for the project, which will continue to pay contributors until 2020.

Arts Queensland/State Library of Queensland



In 2018, *Griffith Review* secured two-year project funding from Arts Queensland to offer the Griffith Review Queensland Writing Fellowships. The program provides opportunities for Queensland writers, and those writing about the state, to work with *Griffith Review*'s expert editorial and publicity team and publish their work in a future edition. In 2018, *Griffith Review* awarded fellowships to Sally Breen, Bill Wilkie, Krissy Kneen, Amy McQuire, Pat HOFFIE and Anthony Macris. This grant was secured after the success of our tripartite agreement with Arts Queensland and the State Library of Queensland to offer a Writing Fellowship program in 2016 and 2017.

Varuna, The Writers House



Griffith Review proudly partnered with Varuna, The Writers House, to offer week-long residencies for authors to develop a work in progress. In 2018, the recipients were: Biff Ward, Laura Elvery, Lech Blaine and Tamson Pietsch. The Graeme Wood Foundation continues to support the project.

Publication-specific partnerships

Griffith Review met a major artistic and financial goal by securing publication partners and confirming themes for the four 2018 editions.

Griffith Review 59: Commonwealth Now



Griffith Review successfully obtained funding from Queensland Government's Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games' Festival 2018 program. As one of three successful applicants to the cultural program, *Griffith Review* received funding to pay for contributors from twenty-three countries to write on the theme of the Commonwealth.



Griffith Review became an event partner for Women of the World Festival (WOW), held in Brisbane in April 2018 as part of the Commonwealth Games's cultural program. WOW agreed to support *Griffith Review* to tour contributors from the *Commonwealth Now* edition to participate in the event.



The British Council supported the travel costs of one author, Margaret Busby, to attend the festival.

Griffith Review 60: First Things First



In an inter-university partnering initiative, QUT partnered with the second edition of 2018, dedicated to examining First Nations affairs. QUT academic Dr Sandra Phillips co-edited the book, and QUT helped to fund contributor payments.

Griffith Review 61: Who We Are



Griffith University's Policy Innovation Hub, through the Griffith Business School, funded *Griffith Review* to appoint co-editor Peter Mares, an experienced journalist and author in immigration policy.

Griffith Review 62: All Being Equal – The Novella Project VI



The Copyright Agency Cultural Fund, a long-time supporter of The Novella Project, committed to funding an additional three years of the project for 2018–2020.

Engagement

Great Reads weekly digest

Lauren Mitchell, Editorial Assistant, continued to compile the popular Great Reads weekly digest. The email digest invites *Griffith Review* contributors to select and recommend online articles to our subscribers, newsletter subscribers and social media followers. This communiqué allows an ongoing relationship between our contributors and readers, and positions *Griffith Review* as a thought leader in an increasingly busy market.

Masthead and website reboot

Griffith Review's website, relaunched in 2017, continues to serve as a popular house for our archives, exclusive online content and special publication projects. Further improvements began in July 2018, for conclusion in 2019.

Contributors Circle

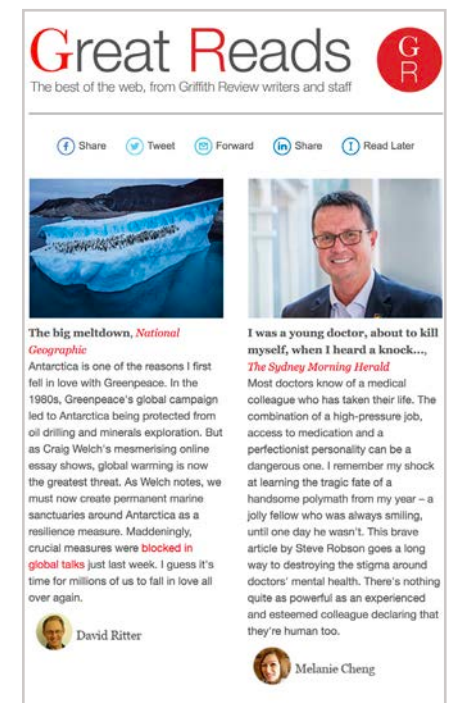
Griffith Review's Contributors Circle, an alumni model membership program available exclusively to contributors, strengthened throughout the year. The Contributors Circle allows *Griffith Review* to retain close communication with our contributors, and offers meaningful opportunities for development, including residencies at Varuna Writers House and the Queensland Writing Fellowship. At the end of 2018 there were 69 Contributor Circle members.

Events

Griffith Review continued long-standing partnerships with national writers festivals, bookshops and cultural organisations in 2018. Contributors featured on panels at Canberra, Newcastle, Byron Bay, Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide festivals, as well as many standalone events around Australia. *Commonwealth Now* had an impressive international reach with contributors featuring at Wellington Writers Week, Edinburgh Literature Festival, George Town Literature Festival, Bocas (Trinidad and Tobago) Lit Fest, and Kings College in London. In 2018 *Griffith Review* resumed standalone public programming with an in-conversation event before an audience, recorded for later broadcast on *ABC Radio National* to a further 323,611 listeners. 'How to ensure freedom of press in an era of fake news' at The Ian Hanger Recital Hall, Queensland Conservatorium, featured journalist Peter Greste, *Commonwealth Now* contributor and human rights agitator Salil Tripathi and broadcaster Geraldine Doogue, hosted by Professor Julianne Schultz. The event was well attended, and was followed by a provocative Q&A session. Two in-conversation events are programmed for 2019.

Market research

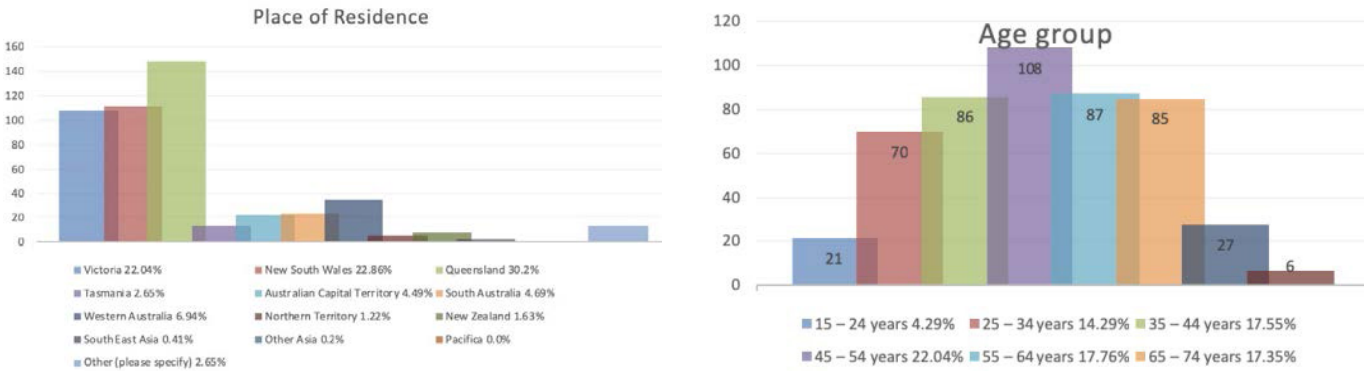
In 2018 *Griffith Review* conducted its biennial readers survey, attracting over 630 responses from readers, subscribers and lapsed subscribers. *Griffith Review* readers and potential readers are likely to be: urban dwelling, middle-aged, highly educated, socially and politically progressive, active on social media, have an average income, and be time poor, and value *Griffith Review* for the quality of the writing.



Detail from an edition of Great Reads weekly digest

Readers survey

In 2018, *Griffith Review* undertook a readers survey to better understand who our readers are. From this we learned that *Griffith Review* readers and potential readers are likely to be: urban dwelling, middle aged, highly educated, socially and politically progressive, active on social media, have an average income, and be time poor.



- These are the top-three reasons that loyal readers subscribe to *Griffith Review*:
- I like to read about current affairs
 - I value the quality of writing
 - I like how the topics or themes are explored through different styles of writing

- Of these same loyal readers:
- 43% read from the hard copy book
 - 24% read free articles online
 - 24.2% had not seen a hard copy book
 - 68% identify *Griffith Review* in bookshops, at festivals and events
 - 76% commented about the format, size and cover of the book (mostly favourably)
 - 62% are happy with the amount and type of communication from GR
 - 65% follow *Griffith Review* on social media

When asked open questions about what they think about *Griffith Review* as a publication, readers responded with positive praise, collected in the word cloud below:



- From these and other questions, we were able to ascertain the main reasons that readers choose *Griffith Review*:
- The excellent writing
 - To educate themselves and expand their thinking
 - The range of writers and perspectives
 - The longer articles provide a more nuanced discussion of topical issues



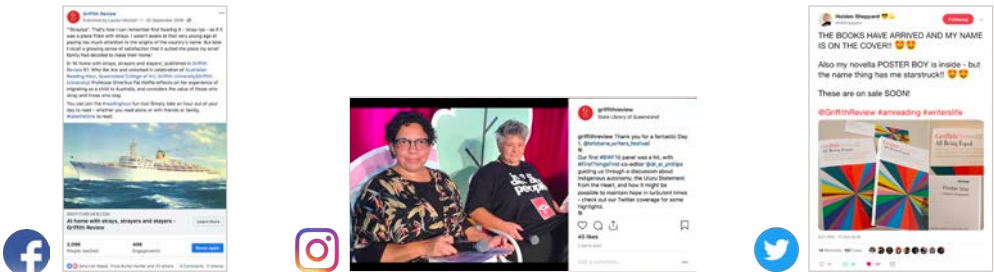
Readers at the Brisbane launch of *Griffith Review 62: All Being Equal* at Avid Reader.

Social media

In 2018, *Griffith Review* refined and consolidated on a social media strategy developed in 2017. Our activity on Twitter and Facebook became more dynamic through targeted advertising campaigns, and our Instagram posts utilised ‘text tiles’ along with visuals to convey important quotes from selected articles. Interestingly, Facebook proved to be effective in converting users to readers on the *Griffith Review* site, while Twitter posts received the most responses. *Griffith Review*’s Twitter account is expected to reach 10,000 followers in early 2019. Our social media platforms were activated in November to deliver Novella November: an online festival promoting the novella form.

At the end of 2018 *Griffith Review* worked with Griffith University’s Social Media Content Manager to produce a three minute and four x thirty-second clips asserting *Griffith Review*’s identity. This collateral will be rolled out in 2019 to support subscription and edition-based campaigns.

Year	Twitter followers	Change (%)	Facebook followers	Change (%)	Newsletter reach	Change (%)	Instagram followers	Change (%)
2010	–	–	559	–	2,959	–	–	–
2011	823	–	757	+26.2	2,744	-7.3	–	–
2012	2,300	+64.3	1,285	+41.1	2,781	+1.4	–	–
2013	3,674	+37.4	1,668	+23.0	3,875	+28.3	–	–
2014	4,913	+25.3	2,084	+20.0	4,141	+6.5	–	–
2015	7,501	+34.6	2,950	+29.4	4,901	+15.5	–	–
2016	8,785	+14.7	3,710	+20.5	5,051	+3.0	–	–
2017	8,850	+0.8	4,309	+13.9	6,813	+25.9	288	–
2018	9,744	+10	4,892	+12.5	6,881	+10	1,050	64%



Finance

In addition to securing publication partners, project grants and program partners, *Griffith Review* performed soundly against set targets for donations, sales and subscriptions.

Donations

A mid-year fundraising campaign was directed to subscribers, contributors, philanthropic foundations and individuals. The campaign was the most successful campaign in recent history, returning more than 30% of the budgeted target amount. Notably, Dr Cathryn Mittelhauser continued to support *Griffith Review* in 2018, maintaining her sister Dr Margaret Mittelhauser’s commitment to supporting the publication since its 2003 inception.

Sales and subscriptions

In 2018 *Griffith Review* book and subscription sales totalled \$69,778, with noted problems between the online sales platform and finance transactions attributing to a shortfall in sales. Additional income from foundations, fundraising and entry fees supplemented book and subscription sales bringing the total earned income (not including grants or in-kind sponsorship) for the year to \$137,647.

A full redevelopment of the *Griffith Review* website is being managed in collaboration with Griffith University’s IT department with an expected fix due in the first quarter of 2019.

Governance, operations, staffing

Editorial advisory committee

In 2018 the Griffith Review advisory committee entered its second year of governance and met in November. The Committee is chaired by Deputy Vice Chancellor (Engagement) Professor Martin Betts and its members are drawn from senior university executives and publishing industry professionals:

Professor Martin Betts	DVC (Engagement), Griffith University
Ms Jill Eddington (Chair)	Industry representative, editing and publishing
Professor Susan Forde	Director, Centre for Social and Cultural Research, Griffith University
Professor Paul Mazerolle	PVC Arts, Education, Law Group, Griffith University
Professor David Grant	PVC Griffith Business School
Mr Phillip Stork	Director, Office of Marketing and Communications, Griffith University
Ms Maureen Sullivan	Director, Library and Lending Services, 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

Improved operational systems

Throughout the year, *Griffith Review* continued to work with departments across the university to strengthen operational systems in finance, marketing and administration. Achievements in this area include the following:

- Contracts and payments of contributors were processed promptly
- Improved budget management processes
- Improved customer query response time
- Redeploying the management of the redevelopment and maintenance of the *Griffith Review* website to Griffith University's IT department

Editorial advisory committee

In mid-2018 a review of editorial processes took place when Ashley Hay commenced as editor in July. Following a recommendation in the review's report, complete editorial processes were moved to SharePoint to improve the flow of versions and copy control.

Engagements with university

Throughout the year, *Griffith Review* continued to strengthen connections within the Engagement portfolio and wider university. A highlight was the inaugural co-presentation with Griffith Library of their established 'Lightning Talks' event. Designed to profile the expertise of Griffith's academic and professional staff, the first event was themed around *Griffith Review 62: All Being Equal*, and featured novella judge Benjamin Law, contributor Erin Gogh, academics Dr Heather Faulkner and Dr Liz van Acker in stimulating discussion on the Gold Coast campus.



Erin Gough signing copies of *All Being Equal* and speaking with attendees at Griffith Review's first Lightning Talk

Staff

In 2018, the leadership of *Griffith Review* underwent a significant restructure. After fifteen years editing the publication she co-founded with Glyn Davies, the then VC of Griffith University, in 2003, Julianne Schultz accepted a four-day per week position as Professor of Media and Culture in the Griffith Social and Cultural Research Centre, and moved into the role of Publisher of *Griffith Review*, one day per week. Ashley Hay, an award-winning and highly respected novelist and journalist, commenced as Editor in July.

Publisher	Julianne Schultz (from July 2018)
Editor	Julianne Schultz (to June 2018) Ashley Hay (from July 2018)
Associate Publisher	Karen Hands
Managing Editor	John Tague
Assistant Editor	Jerath Head
Editorial Assistant	Lauren Mitchell
Business Development Coordinator	Louise O’Neil
Project Officer	Esha Buch (casual)
Editorial Intern	Sarah Shapiro-Parata (January–July, UQ)

Internship program

Griffith Review offers semester-based editorial internships to high-achieving students enrolled in the Master of Writing, Editing and Publishing Program at the University of Queensland each year. In 2017, Sarah Shapiro-Parata assisted in the editorial processes for *First Things First*, *Who We Are*, and the reading process for *All Being Equal*.

Griffith Review will review the program in early 2019, with a view to continuing the internships from semester two, 2019. In addition, *Griffith Review* will welcome 1–2 third-year PR and communications students from Griffith University’s School of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences in 2019.

Staff highlights

‘There is an enormous privilege – and an enormous responsibility – involved in entering editorship of *Griffith Review* in the wake of its founder and champion, Professor Julianne Schultz. I’ve thought about this, mostly, in the context of the privilege of offering writers a home for their stories, and working with them to tell them the best way they can. I’ve thought about this in the context of building on the publication’s established groundwork of supporting established and emerging voices – and giving a first publication opportunity to writers no one has heard of yet. I’ve thought of it in the context of its unique commitment to gender parity among contributors, to Indigenous voices telling Indigenous stories and to supporting so many diverse voices and perspectives as Australia’s literary landscape looks for new ways to support work from these avenues. And I’ve been touched by the response of readers and reviewers to these narratives – on their own, and as a whole – and the greater potential they see between their particular shapes.’ – Ashley Hay

‘This year presented an opportunity to learn from and consolidate on observations from 2017, as well as having the chance to effect the delivery of *Griffith Review*’s public programming. In a year of many highlights, a standout moment was meeting legendary publisher Margaret Busby and hearing of her incredible achievements at WOW at Festival 2018.’ – Karen Hands

‘It was thrilling to work with some of Australia’s best writers in 2018. Their perspectives, and their insights, made a true difference.’ – John Tague

‘This year brought plenty of new opportunities, but highlights include supporting visiting international talent for events and media calls in Melbourne, and also meeting and learning from other young writers, editors, publishers and media professionals at the National Young Writers Festival in Newcastle. Best of all, *Griffith Review* continues to support me to further develop my editorial practice and working knowledge of all areas of the business.’ – Lauren Mitchell

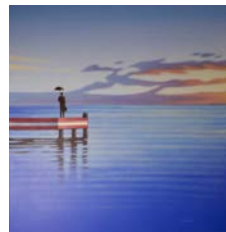
‘As the first point of contact for enquiries and subscriptions, it is always a pleasure to take telephone calls from readers who call in to compliment *Griffith Review* or to let us know how individual essays or memoirs have made a particular connection to aspects of their lives. Knowing that depth of impact makes all the hard work worthwhile.’ – Louise O’Neil

‘Working at *Griffith Review* provides me the opportunity to take up diverse projects to enhance the engagement of our contributors and subscribers. It is a great work environment and I am fortunate to have such passionate colleagues.’ – Esha Buch

Cover artwork

Griffith Review sources Australian and international artwork for the covers of each edition. Notably, the cover of *Commonwealth Now* was an original work commissioned from Andrew Baines, for the edition.

Commonwealth Now:



Andrew Baines, *Waiting for my boat to come in* 2017
Image courtesy of the artist

First Things First:



Christian Thompson, *Black Gum 2* 2010
Image courtesy of the artist

Who We Are:



Michael Muir, *The Truth* 2014
Image courtesy of the artist and Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

All Being Equal:



John Nicholson, *City of Water* 2017
Image courtesy of the artist and Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne

Contributor praise for *Griffith Review*

‘Fantastic and super helpful editorial team – the crew at *Griffith Review* really know how to take care of and nurture authors, especially emerging ones like myself. Thank you!’ – Holden Sheppard

‘[In 2018] I received a Griffith Review Queensland Writers fellowship, which funded research and writing time. The extract of my novel *Gold Mountain Woman*, set in Cooktown during the Gold Rush period, then featured in *Who We Are*. I think it is of huge value that *Griffith Review* provides a platform for exploring important cultural themes.’ – Mirandi Riwoe

‘*Griffith Review* is my publishing lucky charm – as well as my agent, sounding board and gateway drug to the harder stuff of book writing. The role *Griffith Review* has played in incubating [my] two books is not unique. Since 2006, more than two hundred books have been published that started life in the journal. It’s a remarkable strike rate, and one that illustrates the enduring value of each edition: though themed and highly topical, they ripple across Australian letters for years to come.’ – Sam Vincent

‘It was such an honour and a privilege to be published in a high quality and well-respected publication as *Griffith Review*, among great writers. I greatly appreciate the opportunity.’ – Erin Gough

‘I was honoured for my work to be included in *Griffith Review* 62: *All Being Equal*. Working with the editorial team and their wealth of professional experience and range [was particularly valuable]. Ashley Hay handled the editorial process with sensitivity and grace and John Tague was a powerhouse who called me out on my mistakes and simply made the work stronger, more accurate and more in-line with my vision for the story.’ – Victoria Carless

‘*Griffith Review* has created a community of readers and writers that has enriched Australia’s literary and political culture – and it will continue to do so for decades to come. The editorial support and guidance I’ve received as a contributor has shaped my voice, my sense of responsibility, and my worldview.’ – Cameron Muir

‘Varuna changed my life. *Griffith Review*’s investment, faith and belief in my novel enable me to approach my writing in a way I never had before, with renewed courage, resilience and dedication. I wouldn’t be where I am in my career or who I am as a writer without their support.’ – Holly Ringland

[*Griffith Review* is] a great platform for opening new publishing doors. Thank you *Griffith Review* for supporting new writers!’ – Ben Falkenmire

‘I valued being able to publish in an outlet that valued serious thought without the academic baggage. Thanks for the opportunity and for all your hard work.’ – Sarah Barns

It didn’t feel like a purely commercial exercise, but an attempt to contribute to and stimulate – responsibly – the national conversation and thought process. Thank you for taking such care with my essay. I hope to write for you again!’ – Annabel Stafford

[The most valuable parts of the process were] the affirmation of creative effort and the themes of my writing; the confidence it gives an otherwise isolated writer to participate in public intellectual conversations; the editorial rigour of the process; and the follow-up and citations in other media.’ – Anna Maria Dell’oso

‘As a 2017 Griffith Review fellow I was fortunate to benefit not only from the financial support of *Griffith Review* to assist in writing material that will form the basis of my next book, *People are Kind*, but also from the positive and insightful editorial feedback that I believe is integral to the creation of new and original literary work. Starting a new book is always daunting! Knowing that Julianne Schultz and her editorial team supported the process made the task a lot easier.’ – Linda Neil

Griffith Review has published my writing since 2004. In doing so, the journal has provided a valuable space for me to develop as a writer as well as a vital opportunity to contribute to public conversations and Australian literature. The journal has been instrumental in the completion and recent publication of my creative non-fiction book *Traumata* (UQP, 2018).’ – Meera Atkinson

‘*Griffith Review* has played a pivotal role in the development of my writing career. Winning a fellowship gave me financial breathing space to complete my first book. Subsequently, I was lucky enough to have two pieces of memoir published in the magazine. The meticulous editing process showed me the attention to detail demanded by major publications. This experience has already opened a number of doors professionally and made me take myself more seriously as a writer.’ – Lech Blaine

‘*Griffith Review* has been absolutely invaluable to me in my writing career in Australia. It was the first serious publication to publish my work and it gave me much needed confidence to continue writing in English. Also, *Griffith Review* supported me with my published books here. I LOVE what you’re doing and hugely appreciate what you stand for intellectually.’ – Lee Kofman

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