

IMPACT REPORT 2019



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The Indigenous Literacy Foundation acknowledges First Australians and recognises their continuous connection to country, community and culture. We pay our respects to First Australians, their lore and to Elders both past and present. We also wish to pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children as they will become our future leaders, Elders and Custodians of Country.

In particular, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which our head office is based in Sydney.



Over 17 years ago, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) was born out of one woman's passionate belief in justice and equity for our First Nations' people. Uniting some of the most powerful minds and hearts in the Australian Book Industry and supporters, the ILF has grown from our basic belief that every child has the right to reach their full potential through have access to books and other literacy resources in their homes, as well as books in their own community languages. Reading Opens Doors was and remains our motto, but our focus is ever-changing as our engagement with Elders and

From relatively small beginnings, which included a partnership collaborations with playgroups, health centres, schools and many NGOs that work in remote communities across Australia, we remain committed to our belief that all Australian children deserve to have equity of opportunity no matter where they live.



What drives us

e believe education 'opens doors' and provides choices and opportunities for all children. At ILF, we are driven to raise awareness as well as to overcome the literacy challenges facing remote communities. Through our three core programs, gifting books and literacy resources, undertaking workshops and working with organisations like Families as First Teachers (FaFT), families are afforded opportunities that many regional and metropolitan families take for granted.

Our talented ambassadors and Indigenous program team collaborate with communities in face to face workshops to write and illustrate books in their first language. These stories have meaning and context for the children and people who produce them, and we acknowledge that the maintenance of language and culture in these communities is a valuable legacy for generations to come.

Many very remote communities don't have access to public libraries. Some of these communities are a long, nine-hour drive from the nearest major town and their school libraries have limited resources. Our research has shown that most households have fewer than five books. We believe that facilitating literacy through the gifting of carefully curated books, is an important step towards equity of opportunity.

Our Vision

Our vision is equity of opportunity for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who live in remote parts of Australia. We aim to ensure that each of these children is able to develop their full potential and make choices for their future education, health and general wellbeing.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to boost literacy levels and instill a lifelong love of reading through our three core programs: Book Supply, Book Buzz and Community Literacy Projects. All three programs are delivered free to remote Indigenous communities and the organisations that service them.

Our Values

At ILF, we respect and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and knowledge. In our engagement with remote communities, we aim for best practice in the delivery, implementation and evaluation of our programs.



Message from the Executive Director

It's hard to paint a true picture of 2019 and what was, for our team, an extraordinarily tumultuous, sometimes challenging but incredibly exciting year. Hundreds of thousands of kilometres of red dusty roads and seas were travelled or crossed as our team engaged, read, created and swapped stories with children - in playgroups, at schools, and health and language centres. There were so many milestones and adventures along the way: a stormy journey in a tinny during our first visit to Dauan Island, one of the remotest islands in the Torres Strait; launching the first Pitjantjatjara books in five communities in the APY Lands in South Australia; creating a song entitled "Singing in the Rain" on a basketball court in Milikapati with Jessica Mauboy (virtually the whole community closed down to participate!); and recording Moli det bigibigi in Kriol with Herbie Hancock at Sydney Opera House. Karen Manbullo, Moli's creator, said she never imagined when she wrote the book - the first her grandchildren have read in their own language - that her life would change so dramatically: that she would be talking to kids at La Perouse Public School in Sydney; that her book would be sold at the airport; and that Moli would be celebrated as part of the Australian Reading Hour.

From the Tiwi Islands, to the Kimberley, to the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and further afield, UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages was celebrated in 2019. It was a year when ILF's publishing program captured the voices - and stories - of Indigenous people in many Australian Indigenous languages. We are proud to have played a small but integral role in the revitalisation and maintenance of these languages. And we are especially proud of our Program Director Tina Raye, who presented at the 6th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation in Hawaii.

Whether it was on the banks of the Roper River, from where Josie Lardy, an Indigenous woman from Jilkminggan and our first ever Regional Coordinator phoned in for a staff meeting; or at Ngukurr, watching a performance of the children's book The Very Cranky Bear in Kriol; or in Sydney at Kinokuniya book shop for the fundraising launch of Josh Pyke's first children's book, the earth was moving! ILF morphed from small to big (well 14 staff is big!), raising significant funds and working with incredible donors who truly appreciate that the literacy debate in remote Australia is not about deficit.



After devastating bushfires, drought, floods and rains, and now having experienced the impact of COVID-19, we realise time is precious. Our promise is to use our time and our resources wisely - to continue to gift our programs and engage with communities.

Together with your continuing and generous support we can all make a difference.

haven Williams;



Patricia Genat Outgoing Chair

The family of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation encompasses our staff, our donors, our Board and, of course, our readers, writers and illustrators spread out over all of Australia's big red remote lands.

As I take my leave of the official position I have held for the past six years, my heart is full, my memories are strong and powerful, and the experience has been one of learning and sharing. The importance of creating an equitable community of literate children and families has never been more evident than in 2020 with the ravage of an external health threat in COVID-19.

Go well ILF Family, stay safe, stay strong.

And always stay reading.

THE BOARD

ILF's Board of Directors provides strategic, corporate and cultural governance, ensuring the Foundation delivers the best possible programs. In 2019 the Board comprised: Patricia Genat, Glen Miller, Anna Low, Louise Sherwin-Stark, Mark Rubbo, James Kellow, Alicia Stewart, Leitha Assan, and Dr Marnie O'Bryan.



Dr Marnie O'Bryan **Incoming Chair**

The work of ILF is unique and it matters. Thank you for being a part of it.

In 2020, Patricia Genat passes on the baton of an organisation which is strong, vital and making a difference in remote Australia. We thank Patricia for her efforts, and congratulate her on a job well done.

I look forward to serving as the next Chair of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Board and to working with Karen, her team and the other directors to build on the strong foundations laid over ILF's first ten years.

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Co-Patrons and Founder

In 2019, we were thrilled when June Oscar AO became a Co-Patron of our Foundation along with Hon. Quentin Bryce AD CVO, who has been a Patron since 2011.

"I believe in my heart in what this organisation does. It is exhilarating to be involved and to be here after ten years, celebrating the commitment, dedication and achievements of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation." DAME QUENTIN BRYCE AD CVO



HON. QUENTIN BRYCE AD CVO



SUZY WILSON

"It is so important for all Indigenous Australians to have a voice. And so important that this younger generation — our future leaders have ways to find and express their voices too." JUNE OSCAR AO



JUNE OSCAR AO

OUR FOUNDER Suzy Wilson and team of dedicated ambassadors, managed by Kristin Gill from Penguin Random House, inspired us throughout 2019 by the myriad ways in which they supported the work we do, and helped spread the word about Indigenous literacy and the need to ensure equity of opportunity. In 2019 our ambassadors travelled to remote

> communities to conduct workshops, fundraise, address school groups and corporate workplaces, undertook fundraising, addressed school groups and corporate workplaces, chaired or emceed events, and did media interviews.

OUR AMBASSADORS

Lifetime **Ambassadors**





Deborah

Ann James











Josh Pvke

Ambassadors









Gregg Dreise







Richard Flanagan

Dr Jared Thomas Shellev Ware





"Just as important as learning to read, is the capacity and desire for young Indigenous kids to read books that bring them joy. Books that tell stories they can relate to in both English and their own languages. I know first-hand that reading opens doors to all of life's wonderful opportunities."



Student Ambassadors Charlie Russell, Joshua Lam, Sapphire Khodr, Naya Cook, Ella Read, Kiara Harris, Sidney Edwards, Student Mentor Lachie Coman (top left)

We also welcomed back several of our Student Ambassadors, and it was wonderful to have our inaugural Student Mentor, Lachie Coman, on board. Once again, these exceptional young people, each of whom is passionately dedicated to social justice, joined us in our advocacy work, helped promote the annual Great Book Swap, organised fundraising events in their schools and local communities, and raised awareness of our Foundation.





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Andrew Daddo



David Lawrence

DR ANITA HEISS, AMBASSADOR



Tina Raye, Leitha Assan, Josie Lardy and Leonie Short at PULiiMA 2019

Sharing our Story

With 2019 being UNESCO's International Year of Indigenous Languages, much of our focus was on language and raising awareness, not only of the crucial role language plays in people's lives, but also of the serious threat that language loss poses to Australia's cultural inheritance. Our programs focused on translating, creating, launching and gifting books in many Indigenous languages from the Torres Strait Islands, the Kimberley, the APY Lands, Melville Island and at Yirrkala on the Gove Peninsula in the Northern Territory.

Throughout the year we had a significant presence at many key events including: Yabun, Australia's largest celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, held in Sydney; the 6th International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, in Hawaii; NAIDOC Week celebrations at NCIE, in Redfern; the PULiiMA Conference in Darwin; and the SNAICC Conference, in Adelaide. Our Ambassador Shelley Ware spoke at the 20th Australian Booksellers Association Conference in Melbourne; and for the 6th year running we were "Charity of Choice" at the 23rd Byron Writers Festival held in August. In that same month, we were invited to launch a children's book written in Dhaŋu at GARMA in north-east Arnhem Land.

In 2019 we welcomed several new staff and two new Board members, Alicia Stewart and Dr Marnie O'Bryan. And in September, on Indigenous Literacy Day, as part of our national celebrations at Sydney Opera House, we launched *I Saw We Saw* with school students from Nhulunbuy Primary School and also announced June Oscar AO as our new Co-Patron, alongside Hon. Quentin Bryce AD CVO.



"Every child should have the opportunity to be the best they can possibly be, and that is exactly what the Indigenous Literacy Foundation strives to achieve."

Shelley Ware, ILF Ambassador

LET'S CELEBRATE





First Regional Program Coordinator appointed	
FaFT partnership launched in Ngukurr, Northern Territory	
2 new board books in language launched in the APY Lands	
New learning resources	
45 Book Buzz sites	

SNAPSHOT OF 2019

\$3.6 million

independently raised to fund the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and its programs

60,000 students across Australia engaged in advocacy through the *Great Book Swap*

St Regional Coordinator based in Northern Territory

LANGUAGES PUBLISHED

Paakantji (Barkindji)	Warlpiri	Yangman	Garawa (Karrawa)
Central Arrernte	Yolŋu Matha	Pitjantjatjara	Butchulla
Ngaanyatjarra	Mangarrayi	Kunwinjku	Walmajarri
Kriol	Luritja	Western Arrernte	Arabana
(Katherine region)	Tiwi	Yankunytatjara	Yolŋu Matha – Dhaŋu

2019 PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

We are a proud charity of the Australian Book Industry drawing on the strengths of their networks, skills and expertise. Throughout 2019, ILF continued to engage, collaborate and build strong relationships reaching and engaging with our communities, partnerships and major events.



IMPACT OF OUR PROGRAMS

At ILF, we are dedicated to ensuring our three core programs (Book Supply, Book Buzz and Community Literacy Projects) are evaluated, are evidenced-based and have a positive impact on literacy. Strong testimonials from Elders, principals, librarians, health workers and NGOs demonstrate that communities are keen to engage, want appropriate books that children can identify with and want to read; and – most importantly – want to create in their own languages.

In the past ten years we have seen a phenomenal growth in demand for our programs, some of which have grown by more than 200%. Testimonials from communities and ambassadors are a key metric of the impact of our programs.

"We give Indigenous people the power and the passion to know that books can be an amazing part of their lives. We can give them a book in their language. We give smiles, we give culture. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation give people hope and a future dream."

GREGG DREISE, ILF AMBASSADOR AND WORKSHOP LEADER

BOOK SUPPLY

"We cannot stress enough the importance of ILF in our community. The only reason we now have books in homes is because of ILF. That is why we love ILF so much."

TAMMY HICKEY, LIBRARY SERVICES TEAM LEADER, PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL, CUNNAMULLA, QUEENSLAND

"The books have encouraged the parents to read to their children...which has created some interesting conversations about literacy and the benefits of reading to your child, even as small newborn babies."

KASIA RATABUA, PLAYGROUP AND ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR, MOOKAI ROSIE BI-BIYAN, CAIRNS, QUEENSLAND

BOOK BUZZ

"This project has a strong focus on learning in first language, particularly for our Aboriginal children."

SELENA UIBO, NORTHERN TERRITORY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MEMBER FOR ARNHEM, AT LAUNCH OF FAFT, GULUMAN CENTRE, NGUKURR, NORTHERN TERRITORY "We are seeing children bring parents, Elders and communities together to support their learning pathways, and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation is critical in enabling these children to be whatever they wish to be in this world."

JUNE OSCAR AO, ILF CO-PATRON

2019 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Community Literacy Projects

Creating books by communities for communities

To date, we have published and sponsored just over 90 books written and illustrated by children, adults and Elders.

In 2019, we launched seven books, published four, and held seven workshops. Throughout the year we worked closely with Elders, language and cultural advisors, translators, schools, playgroups, linguists, authors, illustrators, editors, artists, photographers, publishers and sponsors.

In April, our program team travelled to the APY Lands in South Australia to launch two gorgeous board books in Pitjantjatjara, *Kutju Kutjara Mankurpa (One, Two, Three)* and *Nyaa Nyuntu Nyanganyi? (What can you see?)*, in five communities. The families of Amata Playgroup created these books.

Four talented senior students from Central Australia travelled to Perth to participate in a second round of workshops in graphic novels. The students created their own graphic novels with the support and guidance of specialists including Brenton McKenna and Wolfgang Bylsma.

Early in May, Tina Raye and Leonie Short conducted our first field trip to three islands in the Torres Strait with the aim of publishing children's books in Kalaw Kawaw Ya, the traditional language of Boigu, Saibai and Dauan Islands.

Two new books by students from the Tiwi Islands, Northern Territory – *Teeny Weeny Yikiyikini*, a picture book, and *Japarrika Rises*, a chapter book – were also launched during the annual ambassador trip in May.

While at Bidyadanga, in Western Australia, Maureen Yanawana, an amazing language teacher, along with some playgroup families and Elders worked with our team, Alison Lester and Jane Godwin, to develop several books. Five languages are spoken in Bidyadanga, as well as English and Aboriginal English. One book in particular will be published in 6 editions, one for each of the languages.

<mark>cts</mark> es for communities

"We want books for our children in all homes ... We need to write and publish our own books, in our own languages ... Language is the glue that binds us." Leitha Assan, ILF Ambassador



In August, at the Garma Festival in north-east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory Nhä *Nhunu Nhäŋal* was launched. This children's book in Dhaŋu, one of the Yolŋu Matha languages, was written and illustrated by Yolŋu students at Nhulunbuy Primary School. This book and an English edition, *I Saw, We Saw* were again launched and read at the Sydney Opera House as part of Indigenous Literacy Day in September.

The 7th Create Initiative was held in November. In a collaborate effort 11 senior young women from Tiwi College wrote their 7th book, and 3rd in the *Japarrika* trilogy with the guidance, support and encouragement of David Lawrence and Shelley Ware, along with their teachers and the team at Penguin Random House.

Late in the year, in Kalgoorlie, we celebrated the completion of *Hello, Hello* created by students from Laverton, Menzies and Tjuntjuntjara Remote Schools as part of the Spinifex Writing Camp.





Book Buzz

Book Buzz continued to roll out to even more playgroups during 2019. This program supports dedicated daily storytime sessions, and provides developmentally appropriate books and other literacy resources to encourage parents and carers to introduce books to their babies and enjoy reading with their toddlers.

In our Book Buzz program, many popular children's titles gifted by the Foundation, have been translated by communities into their own language. In addition, communities are creating their own board books in their first languages.

"It's so important for children to be able to read in their own language ... It was great to work with them in this creative way ... a nice marriage of experience and ideas. And proper relationships with the community are being developed over time ... "

Book Supply

Our Book Supply program aims to foster a love of reading and to encourage engagement with books among children of all ages, from babies and toddlers to teenagers. For many families in remote communities the program means they have access to new books to read and share.

In 2019 the program continued to expand, with over 90,000 books delivered across Australia. We work closely with schools, libraries, playgroups, health centres and a wide range of support organisations to ensure that culturally appropriate books, many written by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander authors, reach children.

"They were thrilled [to get the books]. And what was really lovely was just afterwards seeing an older brother reading to his little sister ... There's no public library, and no shop that sells books. And to order books, you need a credit card, which most families here don't have ... "

> Kate Stasser, Head of Curriculum (Primary), Mornington Island State School, Queensland

"It really struck me how very remote the island is. There's no going to a library or bookshop ... I now have a whole new appreciation of life in remote communities ... Talking to parents and grandparents was a real privilege. I learnt what the ILF programs mean to them. And incorporating their Tiwi language into the books is very important to these Elders."

> Natalie Ahmat, Ambassador, on Tiwi Island visit



Alison Lester, ILF Lifetime Ambassador



Thank you!

Partners, Donors, Volunteers and Supporters

Our Foundation could not have delivered its programs in 2019 without the enthusiastic engagement of the communities we work with across Australia. We are also extremely grateful for the continued support of our corporate sponsors, partners, trusts and foundations as well as the many individuals and workplaces whose generosity enabled us to continue rolling out our core programs. Their grants, donations and in-kind support allowed us to make real differences towards equity of opportinity for children living in remote communities. We have too many valued supporters to mention them all, but we recognise the following for their ongoing dedication and commitment to the work of our Foundation.

Acknowledgements

GOLD SUPPORTERS Penguin Random House Pan Macmillan Gandel Philanthropy Metamorphic Foundation Johnston Foundation Mitsubishi Corporation Rado Foundation Envato Foundation Constant Reader Bookshop ACME Foundation

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

ABC **ARA Endowment Fund Baker Foundation Donnelly Garner Foundation Emu Trekkers Brent & Vicki Emmett Reina Barlow** Beecher Family Charitable Fund Elizabeth & Barry Davies **Charitable Foundation** Libraries Board of South Australia SMEC **Annie Danks Foundation Jetstar Airways** Morialta Trust **Morpheus Foundation Quinn-Femelle Private Ancillary Fund** UnLtd **Flew Foundation** Jim Hart **Readings Bookstores Riverbend Books** Hawthorn Football Club **1010 Publishing Stening Charitable Trust** Allen & Unwin lan and Alison McKenzie Family Foundation Magic Libraries Foundation John T Reid Charitable Trusts Penny Appeal Cut Through Coaching & Consulting The Flying Beetroot Anita Heiss **Berkelouw Bookstores** Gleebooks Harry Hartog Bookstores **Kinokuniya Sydney** Matilda Bookshop **Potts Point Bookshop Oscar and Friends Avid Reader** HarperCollins Publishers Pty Ltd Hachette Australia Australian Booksellers Association Australian Publishers Association Australian Society of Authors **Children's Book Council of Australia** Australian Library and Information Association

Committee and a second s

cross many parts of Australia, the new year got off to a difficult start. People from one end of the continent to the other were affected by extreme climate conditions.

Our

vision

FOR

2020

the

way

forward

And now, the world is working out how best to deal with a global pandemic. Like everyone, ILF is adjusting to new ways of working, in our office, with our supporters and with remote communities. But our commitment remains solid and we will continue with our plans for 2020, even though we know many changes and adaptations will be necessary.

In 2020 we will celebrate our 10th anniversary; we'll publish our 100th book (in six languages!) and gift nearly 100,000 books. Our Book Buzz program will continue to expand to more than 60 new sites with the engagement of regional support in communities.

Our exciting new partnership with Australia Post will facilitate the delivery of hundreds of thousands of books over the next three years to remote Indigenous communities, and ensure that even more children have access to quality, culturally appropriate books as well as more opportunities to develop essential literacy and pre-literacy skills.

The year ahead will be both exciting and challenging. And with new changes in communities, to staff and our Board, we will be creating our Strategic Plan and Vision, and welcome you to be part of this inspiring journey.

Financials

THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION LTD ABN: 45 146 631 843

delivery of programs.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year Ended 31 December 2019

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

Book Sales	
Donations	
Fundraisers	
Grant Revenue	
Interest Received	
Other Income	

Administration and Operating Costs Fundraising Costs **Project Costs**

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR

ILF is an independent charity with Item 1 DGR Status that raises all its income independently and without government support. In the past 10 years it has raised over \$15 million to support its program. In 2019, ILF worked within best practice guidelines for charities, ensuring that the majority of funding it received and raised was spent on the

2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
78,125	55,727
2,720,098	2,226,810
39,027	57,682
361,000	196,000
17,939	20,263
372,455	48,520
3,588,644	2,605,003
595,134	495,210
322,511	273,396
2,183,150	1,769,884
3,100,796	2,538,490
487,848	66,513

487,848

66,513

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2019

	2019 (\$)	2018 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,982,586	1,432,740
Trade Receivables and Other Receivables	217,507	131,433
Inventory	667,480	637,686
Prepayments	2,279	4,315
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,869,852	2,206,173
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant & Equipment	55,733	45,075
Right of Use Asset	202,866	-
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	258,599	45,075
TOTAL ASSETS	3,128,450	2,251,249
CURRENT LIABILITIES Trade Payables and Other Payables	386,687	224,296
Employee Entitlements	85,439	70,122
Lease Liabilities	40,530	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	512,656	294,417
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease Liabilities	166,849	-
Long Service Leave Entitlements	14,903	10,638
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	181,753	10,638
TOTAL LIABILITIES	694,409	305,056
NET ASSETS	2,434,042	1,946,193
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	2,434,042	1,946,193

Financials

THE INDIGENOUS LITERACY FOUNDATION LTD ABN: 45 146 631 843

Statement of Changes in Equity For the year ended 31 December 2019

Balance at 1 January 2018

Total comprehensive income for the yea

Balance at 31 December 2018

Total comprehensive income for the year

Balance at 31 December 2019

	Retained Earnings (\$)	Total Equity (\$)
	1,879,680	1,879,680
ar	66,513	66,513
	1,946,193	1,946,193
ar	487,848	487,848
	2,434,042	2,434,042

Where our funds come from



How are funds are spent



On behalf of the ILF team - thank you!



LTR (top): David Lawrence, Gregg Dreise, James Kellow, Nigel Marsden, Brad Gambetta, Peter Fitzgibbon, Suzy Wilson, Alison Lester. LTR (Mid): Elizabeth Arrigo, Kathy Mossop, Karen Williams, Justine Clarke, Jane Crowley, Laura Atherden, Cindy Manfong, Natalie Ahmat. LTR (Bottom): Tina Raye, Leonie Short, Leila Hosseini, Anna Low



Broadway NSW Australia 2007 (02) 9280 0644 info@ilf.org.au indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au ABN 45 146 631 843 Donations welcome

PO Box 663,