

ROSA Annual Report | 2022



Chairperson's Report

As the 2021-2022 membership year comes to close, it's heartening to look back over the year that's been and see how much we as individuals and as an organisation have achieved.

Slowly, we're venturing back out to in-person events and enjoying that face-to-face interaction we've missed so much during lockdown and restrictions. Our online conference continues to go from strength to strength as it allows us to invite speakers we wouldn't otherwise have access to, to participate and share their knowledge. And we continue to work on bringing a better experience to our members.

Exco has some new and exciting projects we look forward to bringing its members in the new year and cannot wait to share. We encourage you to "watch this space" for all the news.

I'd like to thank my fellow Exco members for their support and service over this past year. It is greatly appreciated. Sadly, we say goodbye to Romy Sommer and Dani René as committee members. Thank you so much for all you've done. And, from the Exco and I, we'd like to thank all the volunteers - each subcommittee member, chapter leader, mentor, judge, event organiser, webinar presenter and contributor - who've contributed to ROSA's ongoing success this past year. We could not have done it without you. We appreciate you all.

Here's to an exciting new membership year together.

Dorothy Ewels

ROSA Chairperson

Treasurer's Report

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2022

There was a reduction in membership fees due to the generous donating of scholarships by speakers at the 2020 Conference. These were applied to members who were struggling to pay their fees.

The 2021 Conference returned a surplus of over R23,355. This has been the prime generator of revenue for the year.

No income was received from Webinars, as the attendance at webinars was sponsored by scholarships.

This was a year of investment in which various items of software pertaining to webinars, web hosting and membership monitoring were acquired. Whereas this has impacted negatively on revenue in this financial year, it will serve us well in the years to come.

The reserves of the organization total R129,543 this is made up of the bank account balance of R 123,431.79 and a deposit in PayFast of R6,112 which was transferred across in the new financial year. These two amounts reflect a marginal increase on reserves over the previous year.

Rosa Publications (Pty) Ltd has sufficient reserves to repay the loan of R 6,918. The organization is well set financially to meet the challenges of the year ahead.

Peter Barker

ROSA Treasurer

Romance Writers Organisation of South Africa (ROSA)

Income and Expenditure statement for the year ending June 30, 2022

	June ZAR 2022	June ZAR 2021
REVENUE	69 651.07	116 158.69
Membership dues	22 570.00	33 108.93
2020 Conference Fees	-	66 313.04
2021 Conference Fees	37 125.00	-
Awards Entrance Fee	8 445.36	8 400.00
Webinar revenue	-	7 950.00
Revaluation of Foreign account	1 510.71	386.72
EXPENDITURE	65 990.33	73 542.28
Administration & Marketing	8 236.16	730.21
Bank Charges	3 363.35	1 690.75
2021 Conference Costs	13 770.24	-
2020 Conference Costs	-	50 260.55
Webinars	15 274.90	8 144.85
Website and other admin costs	12 881.68	2 605.92
Trophies and Prizes	12 464.00	10 110.00
ACCUMULATED RESERVES - for the year	3 660.74	42 616.41
ACCUMULATED RESERVES - opening year	131 996.77	89 380.36
ACCUMULATED RESERVES - end of year	<u>135 657.51</u>	<u>131 996.77</u>

Romance Writers Organisation of South Africa (ROSA)

Assets and Liabilities Statement at June 30, 2022

Accumulated Reserves	<u>135 657.51</u>	<u>131 996.77</u>
Represented by		
Cash FNB Account	123 431.79	128 145.45
Loan Rosa Publishing Pty Ltd	6 913.54	2 851.32
Payfast Account	6 112.18	
Share Investment 1000 shares Rosa Publications Pty Ltd	1 000.00	1 000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>137 457.51</u>	<u>131 996.77</u>
Membership Dues in Advance	1 800.00	-
NET ASSETS	<u>135 657.51</u>	<u>131 996.77</u>

Notes

The accounts are set up on the cash based system, whereby revenue and expenditure relevant to the organisation is not reflected in the accounts until it has been entered in the bank account

Membership

At the end of September, ROSA membership stood at 39. In 2021 we began a process of consolidating our various platforms and sites, eg. ROSA, ROSAcon, membership, etc., onto one site, ie. www.romancewrites.co.za. A large undertaking like this is not without its technical challenges and problems. As a direct result, membership renewal has been somewhat later this year, and is not without its teething issues. We continue to strive to improve the experience and members are continuing to renew.

In our ongoing endeavours to make the online experience a pleasant one, we are moving to automate as many processes as we can, including membership.

We, as Exco, would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their patience as we continually strive to improve and grow, and we look forward to ironing out the glitches so that next year we'll hopefully have a renewal system that is even more efficient and user-friendly!

Dorothy Ewels

Chairperson

obo ROSA Membership

Vision Statement

ROSA's stated mission, as per our constitution and our website, is:

- To provide support, encouragement and professional development to romance writers, especially to writers resident in Southern Africa and of South African descent.
- To enhance and promote the various types of romantic fiction and to encourage good writing.
- To support writers of romantic fiction through networking, information, resources and an online community.
- Represent the genre of romantic fiction within Southern Africa.

During our 2021-22 year we furthered these aims through the following initiatives:

Local Chapters

This past year ROSA expanded the number of local chapters. We now have the following chapters represented via WhatsApp groups:

- Johannesburg
- Pretoria
- Cape Town
- Garden Route
- Durban
- Afrikaans
- International

A huge thanks goes out to all our volunteer chapter leaders who do so much to keep our members up to date and who organise networking events to keep us all sane!

Mandy Verbaan

Chapter Leaders Coordinator

Website, Blog, Newsletters & Social Media

The quarterly newsletter had a few ups and downs this past year and was not as consistent as we'd hoped. Romy Sommer has, sadly, had to step back from her duties and has been unable to put out any this final quarter of the membership year. With the advent of the new Exco, we will be reassigning the portfolio. Thank you for your valued contribution, Romy. It is greatly appreciated.

The website is currently undergoing a refresh, with a project currently underway to consolidate all external functions onto one site. We look forward to bringing you a newly improved site soon.

Dorothy Ewels

Chairperson

obo ROSA PR Co-ordinator

Professional Development

ROSA successfully achieved its aim of providing professional development for its members during the past year through ROSACon 2021 and 2022 and the Strelitzia mentorship

program.

In 2020 the mentorship phase of the Strelitzia Contest was re-vamped. A private Facebook group was created, in which entrants could interact and support each other through the process, ask questions and stay up to date with webinars being offered. Monthly check in sessions with the mentees were held, and monthly Q&A sessions with the mentors were held to provide entrants the opportunity to ask questions of them.

Quality Control & the Pursuit of Excellence

Imbali Contest

Part of ROSA's vision in promoting romantic fiction is to encourage and reward good writing within the genre. This is why the Imbali Award was introduced as an annual award for excellence in romance writing. 2022 marks the sixth year of the Imbali's.

This year we received ten entries in our English category and two in our Afrikaans category, one of which was withdrawn by the author. A total of eleven entries went through the judging process.

Congratulations to Ashleigh Giannocarro and Tamsyn Bester on winning the 2022 Imbali award.

Many thanks to the judges for their hard work and support.

Dorothy Ewels

aka Kim Hunter

Imbali Contest Administrator

Strelitzia Contest

The Strelitzia contest for our unpublished members had 6 participants in 2022. The participants received mentorship, lessons, and access to webinars as part of their mentorship phase, as well as monthly Q & A sessions with the mentors. As agreed in the

2020 AGM, a few changes were made to the contest in 2021, and we continued in the same way for 2022 – only one round of entries rather than two, and the mentorship phase extended from 3 months to 6 months. Participants were then encouraged to submit full manuscripts rather than partial submissions, in the hope that more participants would be encouraged to complete full manuscripts. In order to avoid an onerous burden on mentors, editorial feedback was, once again, curtailed this year.

Four participants submitted full manuscripts for judging (all four in English). We gave the judges the opportunity to opt out of reading the full manuscript after 25%, as we did last year, if they were sure that the manuscript was not yet ready for publication or an award contender, however very few used this option and all the entries received multiple full reads. Every entry received seven separate reads, to ensure that the scoring was as fair as possible.

Congratulations, to Nicole Shandler on winning Strelitzia 2022 with her entry, Learning Love.

Well done to all the entrants who took part, and especially to those who now have completed manuscripts to show for it! We hope that you learned a great deal through the process this year.

Thank you to all the mentors and judges who contributed time and effort this year to making this contest a success. Your involvement is greatly appreciated, as always!

Dorothy Ewels

Strelitzia Contest Administrator

Looking Forward

It is with an optimistic heart that I look forward to the next year for ROSA. With all the exciting new things we're planning and ideas we have for improving our members' experience, we're excited for the year ahead.

I'd like to encourage all members to get involved with ROSA, regardless of how small the contribution. As a volunteer-run organisation, our success lies in the hands of its members

and is only made possible through your continued involvement. With your active participation, ROSA can only continue to grow and flourish.

Thank you for your support this year, and I look forward to sharing the next year with you.

Dorothy Ewels

ROSA Chairperson

Chapter Reports

Chapter Report – Johannesburg

The Jo'burg WhatsApp group is as busy as it's always been with members contributing links to writing events, articles of interest, sharing memes or information! It's a wonderful group to be a part of.

Cynthia Kistasamy organised a fun afternoon painting workshop which she kindly offered to our Jo'burg members. While we attempted to put our rendition of Vincent van Gogh's Starry Night on canvas, some of us (looking at you Tanya de Ponte) were much better than others!

The Jo'burg members did very well in the Imbali and Strelitzia Awards this year! We recently had an Imbali Award handover with Kim Hunter (Imbali administrator) and Ashleigh Giannoccaro and Tamsyn Bester (winners).

The handover of the Strelitzia Award is yet to take place to Nicole Shandler! Watch this space!

We're very lucky to have Meg Chronis in our Jo'burg chapter who once again organised a mass purchase of The Conflict Thesaurus (Volume 2) which many of our members took advantage of. Heartfelt thanks go out to Meg for organising reduced postage costs as well as a safe delivery address for those who live out in the bundus!

Being such a large group there's always something happening, but we're always looking for new ideas so if you're in Jo'burg and you have a suggestion, or would like to organise an event, please get in touch with one of your chapter leaders petergbarker@gmail.com or mandyverbaan@yahoo.com.

Mandy Verbaan

Johannesburg Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Report – Western Cape

With the lifting of the lockdown/restrictions, it was with great excitement we organised our first in-person meeting earlier this year. We've enjoyed two writing days and look forward to the end of year/Christmas party at the beginning of December.

The ladies in the chapter have been busy this year, releasing more than fifteen books combined, in both English and Afrikaans. A few more are still to come for the year – these ladies aren't done yet.

We welcomed four new members and look forward to welcoming a few more before the year is out.

As things settle down, post restrictions, we look forward to many more in-person workshops, writing days and chatty get togethers.

Dorothy Ewels

Western Cape Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Report – Pretoria

Ashley Giannocarro won the Imbali this year. Margarethie Bredenkamp came 3rd in a short story competition. Sunel Combrinck published for the first time and ended up in the long list for Lapa's Jeugroman competition. Martelize Faber is publishing her first book – albeit a children's book. She also ended up in the Lapa Jeugroman competition's long list.

Sunel Combrinck

Pretoria Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Report – Durban

This year the KZN chapter has been quiet with not much happening chapter wise. Joss Wood released an astonishing eight books this year, with two more being scheduled for later the year. It seems like the year had gotten away from us and we didn't have any

meetings or write ins. I'm afraid we weren't very active.

Yslandé Pienaar

Durban Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Report – Garden Route

The Garden Route chapter consists of a small group of around ten members ranging from the Garden Route, Karoo, and Eastern Cape.

At the moment, the chapter “get-togethers” consists mainly of the Zoom calls that ROSA puts together.

Tanya Hoeksema

Garden Route Chapter Coordinator

International Chapter

The international chapter is very small, and the WhatsApp group is not very active, but it has been wonderful to keep contact with members who have left our shores and the group is very supportive.

The WhatsApp group currently has 10 members.

Romy Semmer

International Chapter Coordinator

Afrikaans Chapter

We welcomed a new member, Vita du Preez, to the Afrikaans chapter this year.

As a chapter, we published a combined 30 books in 2022, with some of these books scheduled to release in November 2022. This includes publications in both English and Afrikaans, with Francine Beaton being the most prolific with 9 books published in 2022.

The chapter also had other achievements, ranging from community service, to speaking at literary festivals, and winning prizes in writing competitions.

Sunel Combrinck, Marilize Roos, Felicia Snyman, and Annerle Barnard have taken on teaching/mentoring roles in this year, either in the Strelitzia competition, or in extra-mural workshops.

Francine Beaton and Marilize Roos were judges for the Imbali awards. Elsabe Welman was also a judge at the ATKV reading competition (aimed at primary school learners), as well as another short story competition.

Francine Beaton and Marilize Roos have appeared as speakers and/or participated in panel discussions at in-person literary festivals; Francine in Montagu and Fish Hoek, and Marilize in Fish Hoek. Felicia Snyman led a panel discussion at the Aardklop festival, and Annerle Barnard participated in a panel discussion at the Vryfees. Marilize Roos, Felicia Snyman, Carin Marais, and Didi Potgieter also presented programs, or participated in panel discussions, at ROSAcon.

Last but not least, Margarethie Bredenkamp won a bronze medal in the "Skryfgeheime" short story competition, and one of Annerle Barnard's short stories was selected to be included in the LAPA schools anthology.

Marilize Roos

Afrikaans Chapter Coordinator