

ROSA Annual Report | 2023



Chairperson's Report

The 2022/23 year is now at a close, bringing with it a slow year for ROSA. Three years of struggling with the pandemic took its toll and membership, member participation and overall spirit was at an all-time low.

Slowly, as we've worked hard at regaining lost ground with in-person events and enjoying that face-to-face interaction we've missed so much during lockdown and restrictions, we're happy to report a healthy improvement.

Initiatives Exco had intended rolling out during the year had to be shelved, but we've begun rolling some of them out now and have had wonderful results thus far, encouraging us to continue with more of them. I'll go into more details in the section regarding the way forward.

I'd like to thank my fellow Exco members for their support and service over this past year. It is greatly appreciated, especially in light of challenges we've gone through. Sadly, we say goodbye to Vash Karuppa and Nicolette Stephens after two years of service. Thank you so much for all you've done. It is deeply appreciated. From the outgoing Exco and I, we'd like to thank all the volunteers – each subcommittee member, chapter leader, event organiser, webinar presenter and contributor – who've contributed to ROSA events this past year. We could not have done it without you. We appreciate each and every one of you.

With all of that said, I'm turning my gaze to the future and all the exciting new initiatives to come this year.

Dorothy Ewels

ROSA Chairperson

Treasurer's Report

Romance Writers' Organisation of South Africa

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2023.

There was a deficit for the year of R 27,270.

This deficit was the result of :-

- A loss on the Cape retreat of R 14,126
- A drop in membership fees against last year of R 8,700
- Other sundry costs.

There was a surplus of R 1,827 brought forward from the 2022 Conference. This is due to the accounts being drawn up on the cash-based system.

Savings included :-

- Administration and Marketing R 3,249
- Webinar costs R 7,324
- Website and other admin costs R 6,094
- Trophies R 7,893

The movement on cash including cash held by Payfast at the end of the previous financial year totalled a decrease of R 29,070.

Rosa Publishers Pty Ltd has sufficient funds to repay the loan account.

Peter Barker

ROSA Treasurer

Romance Writers Organisation of South Africa (ROSA)
Income and Expenditure statement for the period ending 30 June 2023

| | June ZAR 2023 | June ZAR 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| REVENUE | 56 850,00 | 69 651,07 |
| Membership dues | 13 870,00 | 22 570,00 |
| 2022 Conference Fees | 8 350,00 | 37 125,00 |
| Awards Entrance Fee | - | 8 445,36 |
| Cape Retreat Revenue | 34 430,00 | |
| Webinar revenue | 200,00 | - |
| Revaluation of Foreign account | - | 1 510,71 |
| EXPENDITURE | 84 119,50 | 65 990,33 |
| Administration & Marketing | 6 986,96 | 10 236,16 |
| Bank Charges | 1 836,83 | 3 363,35 |
| 2022 Conference Costs | 6 522,87 | 13 770,24 |
| Cape Retreat Costs | 48 555,99 | |
| Comic Con Costs | 907,24 | |
| Entertainment | 2 000,00 | |
| Webinars | 7 950,95 | 15 274,90 |
| Website and other admin costs | 4 787,41 | 10 881,68 |
| Trophies and Prizes | 4 571,25 | 12 464,00 |
| ACCUMULATED RESERVES - for the year | (27 269,50) | 3 660,74 |
| ACCUMULATED RESERVES - opening year | 135 657,51 | 131 996,77 |
| ACCUMULATED RESERVES - end of year | <u>108 388,01</u> | <u>135 657,51</u> |

Romance Writers Organisation of South Africa (ROSA)
Assets and Liabilities Statement at 30 June 2023

| | June | June |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Accumulated Reserves | <u>108 388,01</u> | <u>135 657,51</u> |
| Represented by | | |
| Cash FNB Account | 100 474,47 | 123 431,79 |
| Loan Rosa Publishing Pty Ltd | 6 913,54 | 6 913,54 |
| Payfast Account | - | 6 112,18 |
| Share Investment 1000 shares Rosa Publications Pty Ltd | 1 000,00 | 1 000,00 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>108 388,01</u> | <u>137 457,51</u> |
| Membership Dues in Advance | - | 1 800,00 |
| NET ASSETS | <u>108 388,01</u> | <u>135 657,51</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

It was with a heavy heart that we watched our membership fall to an all-time low over the 2022/23 membership year. But it's exciting to see that our numbers have effectively double for this new year, with new members joining over the past few months. I'm also thrilled to report that so far, we've had three new sign ups as a result of our presence at Comic Con.

We'll be putting some initiatives into action during the next few months to increase our public presence. While I'm thrilled that our numbers have climbed so significantly this year, the projects we'll be rolling out are with an eye to long term gain, rather than a short term bust.

Dorothy Ewels

Chairperson

obo ROSA Membership

Website, Newsletters & Social Media

After our members dealing with Social Media and the quarterly newsletter stepped back from these portfolios, there was no one to ensure that there was movement through these portfolios. Collette Merritt and Dawn Rae have very kindly stepped in to be of assistance in this regard and are doing a wonderful job of breathing new life into them.

The first of the revamped, fresh-looking newsletters has been released, and Dawn will issue one per month as long as there is member contribution to the content. This is a perfect opportunity for members to share their career news – eg. new releases, sales, and achievements regarding their books, as well as birthday and other important news. If you have any industry related news or articles you'd like to share, this is also a good vehicle for those.

ROSA has also recently undergone a rebrand which will officially be revealed at the Annual General Meeting being held via Zoom on Saturday, 14 October

2023, at 10:00. Along with this comes a total revamp of the ROSA website, as well as moving over from Wix to Wordpress. This move will ensure a roughly R5000/annum saving on website fees. The revitalised website will also feature full automation for onboarding new members, membership renewal and purchasing of tickets for ROSA events, such as ROSAcon, MiniCon, Imbalis, Strelitzia, among others. Watch this space for exciting developments.

Dorothy Ewels

Chairperson

obo these ROSA Portfolios

Quality Control & the Pursuit of Excellence

Imbali Awards and Strelitzia Contest

In 2022 an executive decision by Exco was taken to put both the Imbali awards and Strelitzia contest on hold to be revitalised. The new Exco, which will be officially announced at the AGM, is currently doing just that and all relevant details will be revealed early in 2024. Keep an eye out for the exciting new things to come for both these events.

Dorothy Ewels

Strelitzia Contest Administrator

Looking Forward

I've just recently returned from Johannesburg to attend a number of ROSA events designed to bring new and exciting projects to the organisation this year. Members of Exco that were able to attend another think tank met at Papachinos in Fourways to brainstorm new offerings. More brainstorming was done by attendees of the MiniCon which took place in Krugersdorp, and even

more ideas were added to the ever-growing list.

We've narrowed down the projects our new, dynamic Exco will roll out during the next twelve months and we're sure our members will appreciate the value add these initiatives will bring to your membership.

ROSA attended its first Comic Con in Johannesburg at Nasrec over the long weekend in September to raise awareness of romance as a genre, ROSA as an organisation supporting the genre, and for South African authors as a whole, and ROSA authors specifically. Our presence was well received, seeing hundreds of convention-goers as they stopped by the stand. Our attending authors did a roaring trade in book sales, giving us as Exco encouragement that we're on the right track to achieve our objective.

I will be announcing the exciting new events we'll be introducing over the next twelve months and look forward to seeing you at the AGM. As a teaser, these are some of the ideas we've had. More details to be shared during the AGM on Saturday, 14 October 2023, at 10:00.

- Conventions and Expos we'll be attending
- Conferences we'll be offering
- Book signings
- Relaunching of ROSA's rebranded website
- Increasing our public presence
- Reader initiatives to drive awareness around romance as a genre as well as South African authors
- Revamped Imbali Awards
- Revamped Strelitzia Mentoring Programme
- And more

I look forward to seeing you at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Dorothy Ewels

ROSA Chairperson

Chapter Reports

Chapter Report – Johannesburg

Chapter leaders: Mandy Verbaan, Peter Barker & Bailie Hantam

The Joburg chapter WhatsApp group continues to be a hive of activity. Members continue to share links to writing events, articles of interest, memes and information! It's a wonderful group to be a part of.

We've had several new members join our group and we're excited to get to meet them at future events.

We're not very good at sharing our success stories in the Joburg group – something we're hoping to improve upon in the next year, but we do have a couple of people that I'd like to give a special mention due to their incredible achievements throughout 2023:

- Alissa Baxter who has released four books – The Baronet's Lady Biologist, The Duke and the Lady Gardener, The Baron and the Lady Chemist and in November The Lord and the Lady Astronomer will be released.
- Siana Claven who has ghostwritten 640,000 words over 17 romance novels in the mafia, sweet and billionaire romance genres.
- Ashleigh Giannoccaro who has ghostwritten a staggering 1,1 million words over 45 books. If you have not yet attended Ashleigh's plotting workshop – get yourself on the waiting list for the next one! This is a huge contributing factor to her incredible achievement.

If you'd like to be involved in publicising new releases for our Johannesburg group, members please reach out to one of the chapter leaders as we'd be very grateful for the assist!

Throughout the past year there have been a few small scale in person events, but it was our most quiet year to date with regard to activities. Fortunately, Bailie Hantam has stepped forward and offered to run monthly in-person events and

these will be kicking off in October 2023. So far they have been scheduled as WIP It Wednesday which will take place every alternate month, and WIP It Weekend which will take place during the other months. This way we are providing an opportunity for all group members to attend the event. Please keep an eye out for the announcements if you would like to attend.

We are also looking to kick-off the "Meet the Expert" events again soon and Siana has been in touch to set up the first one so once again – keep your eye out for that announcement.

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.

Mandy Verbaan

Johannesburg Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Report – Western Cape

This past year finally saw the return of the monthly in-person events for the Cape Town chapter. We've held workshops, writing days and just recently a Murder Mystery & writing day at the Castle of Good Hope.

We also hosted the Cape Town Retreat at the Two Oceans Aquarium on the Waterfront – a wonderfully interactive event in a beautiful setting. Plans are already underway for Cape Town Retreat 2024 to be held at the tranquil and inspirational Lalapanzi Lodge on the outskirts of Somerset West.

Our membership has increased by seven members, and multiple chapter members have published their books over the course of the year. The lovely Ashleigh Roberts joined the Cape Town chapter earlier this year, and I'm looking forward to seeing all the exciting things we can plan together for this chapter of ours.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Collette Kelly, Dawn Rae and Tracy Wilson for their ongoing support and contribution to not just the chapter, but the organisation during the 2022/23 year.

Here's to an incredible and exciting 2023/24.

Dorothy Ewels

Western Cape Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Report – Pretoria

Three in-person events were organized and well attended. These meetings were announced in the Pretoria WhatsApp group and widely advertised on Facebook.

January: Meetup and toolbox inputs

Everybody participated and shared their experiences with writing, publishing, marketing and learning new skills etc. All the information was typed up and shared with all members afterwards, regardless of whether they were at the meeting or not.

Mandy Verbaan and some members from the Johannesburg group also attended this meeting.

14 attendees

Free – everybody paid for their own refreshments.

An effort was made to invite non-members to the meeting to gain interest and new membership.

March : Self-publishing – Francine Beaton

Francine is a prolific writer and generously shared her knowledge and experience with the group. Tanja Joubert chaired this meeting.

8 attendees

Free – everybody paid for their own refreshments.

May : Don't lose the plot – Ashleigh Giannoccaro

Some of the Pretoria members attended the Johannesburg workshop and likewise some of the Johannesburg members the Pretoria workshop.

This six-hour, hands on informative workshop was fully booked.

10 attendees

R300 each – including course materials, snacks and pizza.

July - PEN Afrikaans – write a review

Online workshop by an experienced reviewer. All participants received a copy of Rudy van Rensburg's latest book and had to submit a review. After the online discussion individual feedback was given to everyone.

This was a country wide opportunity and sadly some of the ROSA-Pretoria members that did not register early could not attend.

R300

Unfortunately, two attempts to arrange a workshop with Vinesh Maharaj, a charismatic force in human potential and motivation had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest.

Margarethe Bredenkamp

Pretoria Chapter Coordinator

Chapter Report - Durban

This year the KZN chapter has been quiet with not much happening chapter wise. Joss Wood released her usual astonishing number of books this 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.

Yolandé 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 activities include the WhatsApp group and the online workshops that ROSA offer.

Tanya Hoeksema

Garden Route Chapter Coordinator

International Chapter

After careful consideration, this chapter will be dissolved and the members dispersed to their original chapters going forward.

Dorothy Ewels

Chairperson

Afrikaans Chapter

Since our last AGM, as a chapter we've published

- Afr: 25 books
- Eng: 5 English

Of the Afrikaans we have

- 1 debut author. (Romanza)
- 5 Romanzas
- 1 short story
- 2 children's books
- 1 box set

Sunel organized a Jeuglit festival

Marilize Roos

Afrikaans Chapter Coordinator