

Cairns Tropical Writers Festival

CTWF 2018 successfully delivered a range of workshops, panel discussions, author presentations and catered events to a large and diverse local and visiting audience, allowing writers and readers of varied ages and cultural backgrounds to learn, explore and to share ideas, skills, and interests.

Workshops and masterclasses covered screenwriting, poetry, playwriting, fiction writing, digital storytelling, writing for children, documentary making and marketing.

The inaugural youth program included booked-out workshops for primary and senior high school students to hone screenwriting and poetry performance skills.

The program of expert guest speakers offered many the opportunity to listen to and question Julian Burnside OAM, Alexis Wright, Robert Drewe, Richard Fidler, Jane Caro and others.



Hilton Hotel, Cairns AUGUST 2018

Attendees: 1,711
Artists involved: 80
Volunteers involved: 48

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Miles Franklin and Stella awards winner, Alexis Wright, appeared twice in the program
- Julian Burnside AO QC presented and was guest speaker at a breakfast event
- The Literary Dinner—the iconic glamour event of the festival—with author/ radio personality Richard Fidler in conversation with commentator Geordie Williamson

OUTCOMES

- Audience and participant numbers exceeded expectations
- Very positive feedback on the Festival program, venue, and management from presenters and attendees
- Workshop participation by local writers and readers to enhance and/or learn new skills
- Success of inaugural youth program suggesting great potential for growth
- Stronger links developed with past sponsors, including JCU, QWC, CQU, and ABC FNQ, and with new sponsors including ZONTA, ATOM, and REACH
- o Interest from potential future sponsors



