

# ROSA Annual Report | 2026



## **Chairperson's Report**

And just like that, two years have passed. The more I think about it, the more I realise how much I've learned. Not only about human interaction and professionalism, but also about myself.

We kicked off the year with the ROSAWrimos. July was the dedicated writing month and we all took up the challenge of writing as much as we could manage. This culminated in a nationwide writing day at the end of July where about 15 people totalled 40 thousand words. That's even more impressive when you consider the amount of eating and procrastinating we did.

Members participated in a number of Festivals during the year. Two of our members participated in the Cape Flats Book fair. ROSA members also participated in a panel on tropes at the Kingsmeade Book Fair.

Most notably, several ROSA members participated in the Indie Author Festival. Thank you Francine for convening this and ensuring we were invited back.

Coffee Chats remained a constant during 2025-2026. We covered a wide range of topics covering marketing, craft, and the general business side of things.

Our website had a face lift this year. It's the same beautiful simplicity with a fresher feel to it. Thank you so much to Kim Hunter for all you did. And then to Stephanie Du Toit, who took over the website and made it what it is now. Some processes and procedures need to be ironed out in the coming months, but overall, the website is look good.

Our membership once again had another 10% increase. Renewing on the website remains a challenge for some, and hopefully we will have a more streamlined process in the future

The Imbali Awards were held again this year. An amendment to the Rules/Terms & Conditions that eliminated AI-generated from entering the competition. The Imbali winners will be announced immediately after the AGM

On behalf of Exco, I would like to thank all volunteers, event organisers, and workshop hosts. To Francine, Peter, Tracy, Mariette, Marilize, Nadine, Arini, and Stephanie, thank you so much. Working with all of you has been such a pleasure.

To our new Executive Committee, I wish you all the best. I am sure you will take this organisation to the next level.

Thank you to all the members, and to ExCo, for allowing me to lead you. It has been an honour and privilege.

*Bailie Hantam*

ROSA Chairperson

## Treasurer's Report

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2026.

Activities for the year returned a deficit of R 14,127.83 which is an improvement of the prior year's deficit of R22,902 96.

The following events are highlighted as the returns on them are not apparent.

The events are as follows:

|                                           |                      |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Northern Retreat                          | a surplus of R 2 320 |
| Cape Retreat                              | a surplus of R 3792. |
| Imbali as against acquisition of Trophies | a surplus of R 1033. |

### Material movement in expenditure were as follows:

Administration and Marketing an increase of R 13,283. This is due to the appointment of an administrator for a full year.

There was a decrease in expenditure compared to the prior year. This saving was as a result there being no participation in ComicCon, and no expenditure on travel.

There was an increase in website costs of R 6,968 due to the installation of a new website for the organisation.

The movement on cash including cash held by Paypal at the end of the previous financial year totalled a decrease of R 22,867.

The organisation has dispensed of our investment in Rosa Publications Pty Ltd. The outstanding loan from the organisation was offset by a dividend due.

We do have sufficient resources to cover our operations while recovering the deficit made this year. The executive Committee is looking at ways to increase revenue. Whereas the point of ROSA is not to maximise profits, we do endeavour to stay sufficiently liquid in order to attain our goals and plans.

*Peter Barker*

ROSA Treasurer

**Romance Writers Organisation of South Africa (ROSA)***Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ending 30 June 2026*

|                                            | June 2026<br>ZAR   | June 2025<br>ZAR   |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>                             | <b>105 829,00</b>  | <b>130 561,00</b>  |
|                                            |                    |                    |
| Membership dues - Authors                  | 25 374,00          | 26 110,00          |
| Membership dues - Readers                  | -                  | 150,00             |
| 2024 Conference Fees                       | -                  | 66 601,00          |
| Dividend Received                          | 9 315,00           | -                  |
| Comic Con Revenue                          | -                  | 6 000,00           |
| Cape Retreat Revenue                       | 25 710,00          | 23 800,00          |
| Calendar                                   | 550,00             | -                  |
| Northern Retreat Revenue                   | 36 730,00          | -                  |
| Imbali Revenue                             | 5 150,00           | 7 900,00           |
| Event Revenue                              | 3 000,00           | -                  |
|                                            |                    |                    |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                         | <b>119 956,83</b>  | <b>153 463,96</b>  |
|                                            |                    |                    |
| Administration & Marketing                 | 31 922,98          | 18 684,90          |
| Bank Charges                               | 4 205,23           | 6 265,85           |
| 2024 Conference Costs                      | -                  | 57 996,10          |
| Event Costs                                | 5 310,00           | 4 977,51           |
| Comic Con Costs                            | -                  | 14 521,84          |
| Cape Retreat Costs                         | 21 917,70          | 21 179,88          |
| Northern Retreat Costs                     | 34 410,29          | 1 341,95           |
| Joburg Chapter net costs                   | -                  | 417,00             |
| Revaluation of Foreign account             | 147,14             | 23,23              |
| Travel                                     | -                  | 2 860,00           |
| Website costs                              | 17 926,49          | 10 958,70          |
| Trophies and Prizes                        | 4 117,00           | 14 237,00          |
|                                            |                    |                    |
| <b>ACCUMULATED RESERVES - for the year</b> | <b>(14 127,83)</b> | <b>(22 902,96)</b> |
| ACCUMULATED RESERVES - opening             | 73 727,49          | 96 630,44          |
| <b>ACCUMULATED RESERVES - end of year</b>  | <b>59 599,66</b>   | <b>73 727,49</b>   |

**Romance Writers Organisation of South Africa (ROSA)***Assets and Liabilities Statement at 30 June 2026*

|                                                             | June 2026<br>ZAR | June 2025<br>ZAR |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Accumulated Reserves</b>                                 | <b>59 599,66</b> | <b>73 727,49</b> |
|                                                             |                  |                  |
| <b>Represented by:</b>                                      | -                | -                |
| Cash - FNB Account                                          | 59 649,91        | 82 493,98        |
| PayPal Account (USD 22,54)                                  | 399,75           | 422,62           |
| Share Investment - 1 000 shares Rosa Publications (Pty) Ltd | -                | 1 000,00         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                                         | <b>60 049,66</b> | <b>83 916,60</b> |
|                                                             |                  |                  |
| Subscriptions in Advance                                    | 450,00           | -                |
| Loan - Rosa Publishing (Pty) Ltd                            | 0,00             | 10 189,12        |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                                    | <b>450,00</b>    | <b>10 189,12</b> |
|                                                             |                  |                  |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                           | <b>59 599,66</b> | <b>73 727,48</b> |

**Notes**

*The accounts are prepared on a cash basis, whereby revenue and expenditure relevant to the organisation are not reflected in the accounts until they have been entered in the bank account.*

## **The Imbali Awards**

The 2026 Imbali Awards launched in April 2026 and were open to any Romance Author who published a book between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025. Once again, we updated Terms and Conditions, ultimately prohibiting members from entering AI generated work. Entries dropped this year with 7 Afrikaans entries and 6 English.

Once again, we were able to host both an English and an Afrikaans competition. We were also able to open the competition to a few other official languages after securing judges for those entries. Unfortunately, we had no entries for them.

Each judge read a book in a genre they were familiar with to ensure that the book was judged against the correct market. The exception was the Afrikaans entries, where readers were familiar with the genre and understood the language as a first language.

The only disqualifying factor was whether or not a book concluded with a Happily Ever After and stories were weighted more if the Romance was a central part of the book.

My only hope is that in future years, the competition grows to be the award everyone wants.

This year's winners will be announced directly after the AGM.

*Bailie Hantam*

Imbali Contest Administrator

## **ROSAWRIMO 2026**

Following on from the success of last year, ROSA held its second annual Romance Writing Month.

The Entry Requirements:

- a) A valid ROSA membership,
- b) A resolution to write a publishable novel by the end of the year.

The entire month of June was set aside for plotting. Informal on-line coffee-chats on building characters and writing craft were offered every Saturday. During the month of July, participants set however many words they'd aim to write on paper.

August, September, and October are the editing months.

The 2026 challenge was yet another success. Members supported one another through the writing process.

Here's to the continued success of this initiative and we look forward to seeing the completed novels published later this year.

The **ROSAWrimo** Committee

## Looking Forward

Once again ROSA finds itself on the brink of a new season. The challenges ahead are not for the faint hearted, but I do look forward to seeing where the next set of Leaders take us.

*Bailie Hantam*

ROSA Chairperson

## Chapter Reports

### **Johannesburg Chapter Report 2025–2026**

**Submitted by Tracy Fox**

It is fair to say that the Johannesburg Chapter has had something of a challenging year.

Initially, Ryleigh Sloane took on the role of Chapter Leader. However, after a month or two, she made the difficult decision to resign, as she felt she did not have sufficient time to do the position justice. I subsequently took over the role. Plans were put in place and actioned towards the end of 2025. Among these was an initiative with Olivedale Library, where I met with the library team to discuss the possibility of running a programme for young people in the area. We were particularly interested in reaching the many homeschooled youths who, we were told, make use of the library.

One of the highlights of the year was undoubtedly the Northern Retreat in Ogies. Those who attended had a wonderful time, with plenty of writing, laughter and camaraderie. The retreat was organised and coordinated by Mariette Wenhold, who did an outstanding job of bringing everything together. Our sincere thanks go to Mariette for making it such a memorable event.

As the year drew to a close, we enjoyed a fabulous year-end function at Cut and Craft in Kensington. To quote Kim Hunter, it was a “wonderful, FUN, Xmas lunch” – and I think that sums it up perfectly.

Unfortunately, the beginning of 2026 proved considerably more challenging for me. My business became extremely demanding as a result of disruptions to international trade and supply chains. The product I represent in South Africa is mined in California and shipped here, and the resulting difficulties created a situation that felt, in many respects, like a repeat of the disruption experienced during COVID.

As a result, I was unable to give the Chapter the time and attention I had hoped to.

The plans with Olivedale Library did not get off the ground, and unfortunately several of the other write-ins and activities I had planned also had to fall by the wayside. Despite this, there were still a number of positive activities and achievements within the Chapter.

Several Johannesburg Chapter members participated in the Kingsmead Book Fair, which, from all accounts, was a successful and enjoyable event.

WIPIT Wednesdays continued to be held regularly at Rosebank Exclusive Books. These monthly get-togethers have become an invaluable opportunity for members to meet, connect, discuss their writing and simply enjoy each other's company. My sincere thanks go to Bailie Hantam for making these gatherings happen and keeping them going.

Mandy Verbaan once again generously opened her home to the Chapter, and we held a successful National Writing Day write-in as part of the national ROSAWriMos programme. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend the day writing together while connecting with other chapters across the country.

#### Johannesburg Chapter Publishing Achievements

A number of our members also celebrated publishing milestones during the reporting period:

- Arini Vlotman – Pretty Complicated
- Naomi McKay – Rory's Haven, Lethal Theory
- Alissa Baxter – The Gilt Cage
- Sofia Karlson – Brutal Vows, Book Five in her mafia romance series

These achievements are something the Johannesburg Chapter can be proud of, and I would like to congratulate all our members who continued to write, publish and pursue their creative goals throughout the year.

While the Chapter may not have achieved everything that was originally planned, there were still many moments of connection, creativity and camaraderie. I am grateful to everyone who participated in Chapter activities and helped keep our writing community going.

Finally, I would like to wish my successor for 2026–2027 every success in the year ahead. I hope they have a wonderful year filled with writing, friendship, new initiatives and, of course, plenty of romance.

*Tracy Fox*

ROSA Coordinator - Johannesburg

## **Chapter Report – Western Cape**

**By Marilize Roos**

### **YEAR-END FUNCTION: 29 NOVEMBER 2025**

We ended our 2025 year with the annual Chapter Christmas lunch at The Thirsty Scarecrow, Stellenbosch. Members ordered a la carte from the menu, and we turned our gift exchange into a series of party games. We were also pleased that our Chairlady, Bailie Hantam, could join us for this event.

### **CHAPTER BREAKFASTS**

The Cape Town chapter has continued the new tradition of Chapter Breakfasts. This is a chance for members to connect on a personal level, as well as to talk shop around the breakfast table. Although we hadn't hosted any formal workshops this year, these breakfasts have morphed organically into an exchange of information and ideas.

Our chapter breakfasts have continued at our regular venue of Canal Walk Spur.

### **LIBRARY EVENTS**

We have been fortunate enough to be invited to several library events in 2026. On 21 February, Marilize Roos, Nicole Anne Nielsen, Dorothy Ewels and Jo-Anne Duffett represented ROSA at a panel discussion on romance writing, hosted by the Friends of the Fish Hoek Library.

The City of Cape Town Libraries also hosted a Local Author Library Tour between 20 April and 9 May, an ambition campaign that included libraries from Kommetjie all the way to Durbanville. Five of our authors, Dorothy Ewels, Marilize Roos, Denise Riddle, Germaine Keraan, and Dawn Rae, represented ROSA at various events in this campaign.

### **THE CAPE TOWN RETREAT**

The Annual Cape Town Retreat was held on 22-24 May at The Lodge at Atlantic Beach, in Melkbos Strand. Several members bought tickets to the Full Retreat, with only two who bought day tickets only.

The purpose of this year's retreat was to relax, get some words down, and to connect with other authors. On Saturday we hosted a guest facilitator, Dr Jo-Anne Richards, award winning author, and former university professor in creative writing. She coaxed some exceptional pieces from all who participated, and everyone ended the session inspired. The latter half of Saturday, and most of Sunday, was spent in a series of writing sprints, using prompts to prime our creative energies.

### **ROSAWRIMOS WRITE-IN DAY**

As part of our new initiative, ROSAWriMos, all the chapters held a co-ordinated write-in day on 25 July. Four members of the Cape Town Chapter (Marilize Roos, Stephanie du Toit, Rita Swanepoel, and Nicole Deacon) gathered at The Lodge at Atlantic Beach, and again held a series of writing sprints, utilizing prompts.

### **FIRESIDE FESTIVAL—INDIE AUTHORS RISE UP – SOMERSET WEST**

This year ROSA participated for the second time in the Fireside Indie Author Festival at the Flagstone Winery in Somerset West on 22 August. 11 ROSA authors from across the country attended, with 9 participating in the 4 spirited panel discussions. Audience attendance was few, but that has never stopped ROSA authors from having a good time, and the event turned into an impromptu mini-conference. Our thanks to Leslie Downie who organized this festival, that has only grown in the last few years, and to Francine Beaton and Stephanie du Toit for all your hard work co-ordinating the marketing.

Participating authors: Dorothy Ewels; Marilize Roos; Elsabé Welman; Bailie Hantam; Nadine Wasserfall; Jo-Anne Duffett; Francine Beaton; Sumi Singh; Stephanie du Toit; Denise Riddle; Germaine Keraan and Rita Swanepoel.

### **OUR EVENTS CALENDAR FOR 2026:**

- 17 January: Visionboarding workshop and write-in day at The Lodge at Atlantic Beach, Melkbos
- 21 February: Blown Away By Books panel discussion
- 14 March: Chapter Breakfast
- 20 April – 9 May: Local Author Library Tour
- 27 April: Chapter Breakfast
- 22-24 May: Cape Town Retreat

- 16 June: Chapter Breakfast
- 25 July: ROSAWriMos Write-in day
- 22 August: Indie Author Festival
- 24 October: ROSAReach event
- 14 November: Year-end Function

## **IN CLOSING**

2026 has been an active year, with monthly events, and networking opportunities. We hope to continue into 2027 with as much enthusiasm and encourage more members to participate.

*Marilize Roos*

ROSA Coordinator - Western Cape

## **Chapter Report – Pretoria**

**By Francine Beaton**

### **Introduction**

The 2025/2026 reporting year has been another busy year for the Pretoria Chapter, with a programme that combined writing craft, practical writing opportunities, community activities and opportunities to connect with the wider ROSA and South African writing community.

The chapter continued to provide a mixture of structured workshops and discussions, Write-In Days, WIP-IT Wednesdays and social activities. While participation and engagement remain challenges, those who have taken part have continued to value the opportunity to learn, write and connect with other authors.

### **Community and Outreach**

The reporting year began with Colour Our Community on 25 October 2025. The event formed part of the chapter's planned community initiative and combined creativity, community involvement and time together as writers.

The chapter ended 2025 with its Year-End Function on 6 December, giving members an opportunity to spend time together socially before the December break. Pretoria members also participated in activities beyond the chapter itself during the year, including ROSA's national online activities, retreats and events in other regions.

Two members participated in the Romancing the Reader event in Johannesburg and Francine Beaton coordinated ROSA's Romance Day at the 2026 Indie Authors Rise Up festival in Somerset West. Romance Day and Pretoria members' participation in the festival are covered in a separate event report.

### **Training & Development**

The chapter continued to provide opportunities for both craft development and discussion during the year.

A number of workshops and presentations were led by Francine Beaton. These covered a multitude of topics that covered both craft and the business side of the author business.

On 23 May, Lize Jacobs presented *From Want to Need: Building Characters That Grow (and Fall in Love)*, focusing on character development and the relationship between a character's external wants, internal needs and romantic journey. Pretoria members also had access to ROSA's broader online programme throughout the year.

### Write-In Days

Practical writing time remained an important part of the Pretoria programme.

Write-In Days were organised on 21 February and 21 March 2026, giving writers dedicated time to work on their manuscripts alongside other authors.

A further Write-In Day was held on 25 July as part of ROSAWrimos. These sessions continued to demonstrate the value of providing writers with a space in which the primary purpose is simply to sit down and write, while still enjoying the encouragement and company of other writers.

### WIP-IT Wednesdays

WIP-IT Wednesdays continued during the reporting year as a recurring opportunity for writers to meet, share work in progress and spend time discussing their writing.

The sessions remained deliberately informal and provided an additional point of connection outside the chapter's larger workshops and events.

### Author Focus and Achievements

Pretoria Chapter members continued to write, publish and participate in the broader writing community during the reporting year.

Francine published two books during the reporting year, *More Than A Little Hope* and *'n Bietjie Meer Hoop*. A further two books, *En Toe Is Daar Jy* and *The*

Survivor's Journey, are scheduled for publication before the end of September 2026.

Lidia de Jager (Dede Dirks) published her third book, Oorwinnaarkind, during the reporting year and is nearing completion of her fourth book, Die Lappopmeisie. She currently has two new series in planning and hopes to publish the first book in Diesterperd Ridders by December 2026.

Tamsyn Bester published her first hockey romance, The Faceoff: Whitmore U Book One, on 3 August 2026, with a further two releases planned before the end of the year. She has also had an exceptionally productive writing year, writing approximately 445,000 words so far in 2026, and is already working on books planned for publication in 2027.

### **Membership, Engagement & Community**

One of the challenges facing the Pretoria Chapter continues to be engagement. The chapter has provided a varied programme of workshops, discussions, Write-In Days, WIP-IT Wednesdays and social activities, while Pretoria writers have also had access to ROSA's national online programme and other events.

However, participation in chapter activities and communication within the community remain inconsistent.

In August 2026, a Pretoria Community Survey was introduced as a pilot research project. Importantly, the survey was not restricted to ROSA members. It was made available to the broader Pretoria writing community in order to gain a better understanding of where writers are currently engaging, which events and activities they value, what they would like to see offered in future, and whether they would be interested in becoming more involved.

The survey asked about writing groups and communities, attendance at events during the previous twelve months, future topics and activities, preferences for events such as ROSACon, and opportunities for volunteering and sharing skills.

Response to the pilot was disappointingly low. The number of responses received was insufficient to regard the results as representative of the broader

Pretoria writing community, and it would therefore be inappropriate to draw firm statistical conclusions from them.

The responses that were received nevertheless provided useful qualitative feedback. Writers expressed interest in further Write-In Days, workshops, social activities, Coffee Chats, networking opportunities and opportunities to connect with other writers. Suggested future topics included writing craft, marketing, editing and navigating the middle stages of a manuscript.

The pilot itself has therefore provided useful information, not only through the answers received but also by highlighting the continuing challenge of encouraging active participation and feedback within the writing community.

### **Looking Ahead – 2026/2027**

The past year has demonstrated that there remains an appetite among engaged writers for opportunities to write together, develop their craft and connect socially with other authors.

At the same time, the chapter needs to be realistic about participation. The challenge for the coming year is therefore not simply to increase the number of activities offered, but to determine which activities Pretoria writers genuinely value and are prepared to support through their attendance and participation.

The feedback received suggests that a future programme could continue to balance practical Write-In Days, focused workshops and discussions, social and networking opportunities and access to ROSA's wider online activities.

There is also an opportunity to encourage members to become more actively involved by sharing their own skills, presenting or co-presenting sessions and assisting with activities rather than relying on a small number of people to organise and facilitate the programme.

The Pretoria Community Survey pilot should be evaluated before the next programme is finalised. Although the response rate was low, the survey itself may provide a useful model for gathering information from chapters and writing communities if participation can be improved.

## Conclusion

The Pretoria Chapter offered a varied programme during 2025/2026, providing opportunities for craft development, dedicated writing time, social connection and participation in the wider writing community.

The year also highlighted an important challenge. A strong chapter depends not only on the activities made available to members, but on members choosing to participate, communicate and contribute to the community.

As the chapter moves into a new leadership period, there is an opportunity to build on the activities that have worked well, reconsider those that have not attracted participation, and focus the programme on opportunities that Pretoria writers genuinely value and support.

The chapter wishes Lidia de Jager well as she takes over the leadership of Pretoria and looks forward to seeing the community develop under her guidance.

*Francine Beaton*

Chapter Coordinator - Pretoria

## **Chapter Report - Afrikaanse by Mariette Wenhold**

The past reporting year was an exceptionally active and productive year for the ROSA Afrikaans Chapter. Our members did not only write and publish, but also continued to develop their skills, participated in competitions, supported literary events and made a valuable contribution to the broader writing community.

### **AFRIKAANSE CHAPTER IN NUMBER**

23 books published

6 short stories published in *Huisgenoot*

1 short story published in an anthology

1 poem published in an anthology

4 LitNet reviews published

At least 4 book discussions

2 book interviews/book conversations

At least 5 different online courses/training topics

At least 4 members participated in ROSAWRIMO

At least 3 members attended writing days

Several writers' retreats/writing getaways

At least 3 members participated in Afrikaans writing competitions

Members participated in the Imbali Awards

At least 2 members were involved in library activities

At least 3 courses presented by members

Several members involved in literary/writers' organisations

Several ATKV Veertjie and other award nominations

These figures reflect only part of the creative work undertaken by our members during the year.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

One of the highlights of the year was the publication of **23 books** by members of the Afrikaans Chapter. The books were published in different languages and genres, reflecting the diverse writing talent within our group.

Our members' writing extended beyond books. Six short stories were published in *Huisgenoot* during the reporting year, while a further short story was included in an anthology.

Six poems were also published in the Zeerust Writers Guild's *Zeekie's 3: Short Stories and Poems* anthology.

In addition, members wrote and published four reviews for LitNet.

## **RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

During the year, our members participated in various writing competitions and received nominations for several literary awards.

This included participation in the Imbali Awards, Afrikaans short-story competitions and the NB Young Adult Novel Competition.

One of our members achieved second place in the Imbali Awards.

Members were also nominated for awards including the ATKV Veertjie, ATKV Children's Book Awards and NACA Awards.

There were also two Writer of the Month recognitions during the reporting year.

These achievements are a wonderful reflection of the quality of work produced by our members.

## TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Continued learning and development were important aspects of the year.

Members attended various online courses and workshops, including training on:

- Visualising goals;
- Characterisation;
- Manuscript development;
- Short-story writing;
- Facebook and social media marketing;
- Various ROSAWRIMO workshops.

Participation in these courses and workshops demonstrates our members' commitment to continuous growth and professional development as writers.

## WRITING DAYS, RETREATS AND ROSAWRIMO

Members participated in various writing days and writers' retreats during the year, including the Cape Town retreat and other writing retreats.

These events provided valuable opportunities for focused writing time, as well as networking, support and the sharing of knowledge among writers.

The Afrikaans members also actively participated in **ROSAWRIMO**, with several members taking part in the associated workshops.

## **LITERARY INVOLVEMENT**

Our members were actively involved in the broader literary community in a variety of ways during the reporting year.

Activities included:

- Book discussions;
- Book launches;
- Book tours;
- Book interviews and conversations;
- Library activities;
- Participation in literary festivals;
- Participation in the Indie Authors Festival;
- Membership of PEN Afrikaans;
- Involvement in local writers' forums.

One member served as a founding member and deputy chairperson of a writers' forum, where monthly meetings were organised and discussion topics presented.

Members were also involved as advisors to literary festivals.

## **COURSES AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

Our members did not only learn; they also shared their knowledge with others.

During the reporting year, members presented various courses and online events, including three online courses for the Blou Pen.

Afrikaans Koffieklets online conversations were also hosted with established writers and industry professionals, creating opportunities for discussion, knowledge sharing and inspiration within the Afrikaans writing community.

## LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Afrikaans Chapter's involvement also extended beyond the writing community.

Members visited libraries on several occasions for various activities, including vision-board activities and book launches.

Members also participated in fundraising and outreach activities in support of a children's home, organised through a library.

These activities demonstrate that our members not only create stories, but are also willing to contribute their time and creativity to the broader community.

## CONTRIBUTION TO ROSA

Several members played an active role within ROSA itself.

Members were involved in the ROSA Exco, the organisation of the Afrikaans Imbali Awards, ROSAWRIMO and other ROSA activities.

This involvement is important to the continued growth and development of the organisation and contributes to supporting writers at different stages of their careers.

## SUMMARY

The 2025/2026 reporting year was a year of **publication, growth, development and collaboration**.

With **23 books**, six Huisgenoot short stories, a further short story in an anthology and six poems published in an anthology, our members made an impressive contribution to the publishing world.

However, the success of the Afrikaans Chapter cannot be measured by publications alone.

It is also reflected in the members who attended and presented courses, participated in writing days and retreats, shared their knowledge, entered competitions, supported fellow writers, attended literary events and helped keep the Afrikaans writing community vibrant and connected.

We are proud of every member who wrote, learned, published, participated and contributed during the year.

May the new reporting year build on this momentum and bring even more stories, books, opportunities and collaboration.

### **ROSA Afrikaans Chapter**

**We write. We learn. We share. We grow.**

*Mariëtte Wenhold*

Afrikaans Co-Ordinator