

MEDIA RELEASE
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2016 Mildura Writers Festival Residency Call for Applicants

Building on the success of the 2015 Mildura Writers Festival Residency, Arts Mildura is pleased to announce the residency will again be offered in 2016. The Mildura Writers Festival Residency will take place between 7 July – 7 August 2016. Application forms available from mid November at www.artsmildura.com.au Completed applications are due by COB 22nd January 2016.

The Mildura Writers Festival Residency was created to support writers of any genre and for the successful applicant to propose a project that will enhance the regional or national cultural landscape. The committee were impressed by the number of applications and the caliber of writers who were keen to come to Mildura for the 2015 Festival and again invite applications for the 2016 Mildura Writer in Residence.

The Residency provides a private studio in Mildura for the month of July, access to the region for research and workshops for the writing community in Mildura, all encompassing the Mildura Writers Festival 14 - 17 July.

The residency will be located in Mildura, Victoria. Sitting on the edge of the Australian desert along the Murray River, Mildura is less than two hours drive from Mungo National Park within the World Heritage listed Willandra Lakes Region. The Mallee, extending beyond the South Australian and New South Wales borders is a region which has provided artistic inspiration to numerous writers, visual artists, filmmakers and musicians.

In July of 2016, the **Mildura Writers Festival** will be celebrating its 21st anniversary. Beginning in 1995 in Stefano de Pieri's cellar restaurant, the Mildura Writers Festival has evolved into one of the finest literary festivals in the country, bringing together acclaimed Australian and International writers.

In 2015 the inaugural Mildura Writer in Residence was undertaken by Tracy Farr. Farr's debut novel *The Life and Loves of Lena Gaunt* (published by Fremantle Press) was shortlisted for the 2014 WA Premier's Book Awards and the 2014 Barbara Jefferis Award, and longlisted for the 2014 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Mildura Writers Festival Residency application forms are available at: www.artsmildura.com.au or contact the Arts Mildura Office: 03 5022 9542 info@artsmildura.com.au

For festival updates, please visit: <http://www.artsmildura.com.au/Writers-Festival/HOME.aspx>

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