

MEDIA RELEASE
8 February 2016



2016 Mildura Writers Festival Residency Announcement

In 2015 the Mildura Writers Festival announced its inaugural Mildura Writers Festival Residency. The Residency will take place again this year with Melbourne-based writer and psychogeographer, Nick Gadd.

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 was impressed by the calibre and diversity of writers who were keen to come to Mildura for the Festival. 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, and is incorporated as an integral part of the Mildura Writers Festival program, 14 - 17 July.

Nick Gadd grew up in Yorkshire and moved to Melbourne in 1990. He is a novelist, essayist and blogger. His award-winning novel *Ghostlines*, a mystery set in the Melbourne art world, was published by Scribe in 2009. He has written many essays and articles about Melbourne, history, music, literature and sport for a range of publications including *The Guardian*, *Eureka Street*, *Griffith Review* and *Elsewhere: A Journal of Place*. Nick currently writes the popular blog Melbourne Circle about roaming around the Melbourne suburbs on foot in search of ghostsigns, derelict factories, and lost greyhound racing tracks. He has been a guest at various literary festivals including the Melbourne Writers' Festival. Based in Melbourne, Nick has completed a Masters in Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing at the University of Melbourne and is currently teacher of Creative Writing.

"With Ghostlines and the Trudeau character, Gadd has created an opportunity for a series of novels, perhaps even a rival for Shane Maloney's wonderful and wonderfully funny Murray Whelan series."

– Seamus Bradley, The Sunday Age

"Strong dialogue, a tight structure, and an exceptional narrative voice take the reader on a journey to a provocative conclusion."

– Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Unpublished Manuscript Judge's Review

Nick will be offering workshops, available to the local community, on using place as a trigger for creative writing. Participants will be encouraged to draw on their immediate environment for material, seeing beyond the obvious, looking into the lost and buried meanings of a place.

"As a writer and psychogeographer, I am keen to delve into Mildura's history and explore its stories, using old buildings, signwriting and other traces of the past as starting points. The city has a great cultural life and I'm looking forward to participating in the writers festival, leading creative writing workshops and getting on with my own work, inspired by the local environment."

Gadd will also be presenting alongside invited Australian and American writers during the Mildura Writers Festival. For more information on Nick's month-long visit and the Mildura Writers Festival program, please visit www.artsmildura.com.au, mildurawritersresidency.tumblr.com, or contact the Arts Mildura Office.

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

For more information on Nick Gadd, please visit: <https://nickgadd.wordpress.com/>

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