



**Media Release 28 September 2009**

**APA and Literature Board Launch 2010 Residential Editorial Program**

The Australian Publishers Association and the Literature Board of the Australia Council today affirmed their ongoing commitment to Australian literary editing, in calling for applications to attend the sixth biennial Residential Editorial Program (REP), to take place at Varuna – the Writers’ House in Katoomba, NSW – between 3–8 May 2010.

*‘In supporting the Residential Editorial Program the Literature Board of the Australia Council is investing in our talented pool of editors. The REP is an invaluable opportunity for Australian editors who are at critical stages of their career and it has had outstanding results over the years, both for editors and writers.’* said **Dr Dennis Haskell**, Chair, Literature Board, Australia Council for the Arts.

**Maree McCaskill**, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Publishers Association, agreed that: *‘The energy and exuberance that emanates from those who attend the Residential Editorial Program is both inspiring and rewarding. The APA in conjunction with the Australia Council is dedicated to providing this unique opportunity for high level professional development for editors in the Australian publishing industry because it recognises their major contribution to the success of books. This programme is rigorous and stretches the skills bank but those who complete it, never forget it.’*

Industry support is also clear in that publishing houses make such a generous contribution to their staff members’ development. The REP offers mid-career editors a unique opportunity to take part in an intensive five-day program to develop literary editing skills with highly respected industry practitioners, including mentors Jane Gleeson-White, Jo Jarrah and Judith Lukin-Amundsen.

Those involved have universally applauded its success. *‘I have been an author participant at the Residential Editorial Program and I have also had my work used as the basis of editorial workshops in the program. I think REP offers a unique forum for Australian editors to think through and explore their art and their practice. I came away from my participation in REP stimulated, excited, and grateful for the opportunity to engage with editors in a dynamic dialogue that acknowledges the central importance of both authors and editors to the success of producing successful novels, books and stories.’* said award-winning author **Christos Tsiolkas** today.

Keynote speaker in the REP 2008, **Michael Heyward**, Text Publishing, concurred that: *‘This is an extraordinarily valuable program. It gives editors a unique opportunity to learn more about their craft, both from their mentors and from each other.’*

Participants will be selected by members of the 2010 REP Committee, chaired by Linda Funnell (HarperCollins), and comprising Meredith Curnow (Random House Australia), Meredith Rose (Penguin Group Australia), Madonna Duffy (University of Queensland Press), Nicola O’Shea (Freelance), Dee Read (APA), Nicola Evans (Literature Board of the Australia Council) and Robyn Sheahan-Bright (Program Manager).

**The closing date for applicants to attend the REP is Monday 11 January 2010.** Guidelines and application forms are available from the APA website, or by contacting Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Program Manager, *tel* 07 4972 9760 or *email* [rsheahan@tpg.com.au](mailto:rsheahan@tpg.com.au)