



Australian Government



## **Residential Editorial Program (3–8 May 2010)**

at

**Varuna – the Writers’ House, Katoomba NSW**

### **GUIDELINES**

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The Residential Editorial Program (REP) is a training program for mid-career editors who would like to enhance their literary editing skills through intensive workshops with highly experienced and respected industry practitioners.

Twelve editors attend daily sessions in three groups led by the mentors, during which they workshop an unpublished manuscript which is currently undergoing editing in-house. The program also includes a range of workshops and addresses covering relevant topics, delivered by visiting guest speakers. At the end of the week the editor of the workshopped manuscript addresses the group and discusses with them the key decisions which have been made in the editing process.

The program is designed to complement the Beatrice Davis Editorial Fellowship program and recognises editors’ need for mentorships and advanced in-service training with senior members of the editorial profession and publishing industry.

Administered by the Australian Publishers Association, and supported by the Literature Board of the Australia Council and the publishing industry, the REP aims to enhance the standard of writing published in Australia by:

- identifying and developing the professional skills of good literary editors
  - enabling interaction between editors
  - raising the profile of editors in the literary and publishing community
  - encouraging editors to establish and maintain good working relationships with authors
  - teaching editors to recognise and balance the commitment to their authors with their publisher’s business expectations.
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## Comments on the REP 2008

'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.' *Christos Tsiolkas, Speaker, REP 2006*

'Each REP I see just how exciting this profession can be. In 2008 I was again struck by the talent coming through the editorial ranks, and by the level of commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by all participants and speakers. This unique program attracts speakers and mentors of the highest calibre; it affirms the importance of the editor's role and is a tremendous opportunity to develop as an editor. Every year I learn something new.' *Linda Funnell, Chair, REP 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008 Organising Committee*

'The energy and exuberance that emanates from those who attend the Residential Editorial Programme 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.' *Maree McCaskill, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Publishers Association*

'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.' *Michael Heyward, Keynote Speaker, REP 2008*

'It was such a wonderful experience and, as another REP alumni said to me, it takes a while for the REP/Varuna glow to fade! Many people have asked me how it was and I haven't hesitated in saying that it's the best thing I've done in my professional career... In summary, I can't speak highly enough of the REP.' *Anne Rogan, editor and participant, REP 2008*

'The opportunity to meet and discuss issues—of editing, publishing and work in general—in a collegial environment was, for me, a particularly enjoyable experience. REP is a unique professional development opportunity, and one that I am very grateful to have had the benefit of participating in.' *Cate Sutherland, editor and participant, REP 2008*

'It was heartening to see such editorial enthusiasm, such close attention to words and stories.' *Rosalind Price, Speaker, REP 2008*

'As they say of the Olympics – The best ever! This year's REP saw our groups engaging with a profoundly illuminating manuscript. Our attitudes evolved and expanded, from the beginning of the week to the end, through the naturally expansive process of the (structural) editing. The guest-speaker sessions kept up a remarkably exact match with the mentor/ee workshops, so that the whole week seemed to proceed with a beneficial synergy that was educative and encouraging to all present. Thanks to the mentorees for their generosity and openness!' *Judith Lukin-Amundsen, Mentor, REP 2008*

'The five previous REPs have been inspiring for both participants and mentors. Participants have consistently praised the course for its relevance to editors' working needs, and mentors have been impressed by the standard of editing amongst participants and by their passionate engagement with the task at hand. This program continues to fulfil a vital role, and remains one of the most prestigious professional development opportunities funded by the Literature Board in recent times.' *Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Program Manager, REP 1999, 2004, 2006 and 2008*

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The REP 2010 will take place from Monday 3-Saturday 8 May 2010 at Varuna, the Writers' House, in Katoomba NSW. Participants and mentors will stay nearby in Katoomba. Twelve participants will be chosen by the organising committee on the basis of their applications. Participants or their employers will be expected to contribute toward the cost of the program, though there will be a limited number of scholarships available for freelance and Indigenous editors.

**Applications close Monday 11 January 2010.** Successful applicants will be notified by early February 2010.

### **Eligibility criteria**

Applicants must:

- be Australian-based editors working either in-house or freelance
- be available to participate in the program
- have several years' editorial work experience, on quality fiction or non-fiction, which should include structural and developmental work with authors on manuscripts, and structural editing and copyediting of manuscripts
- submit all supporting information requested in the application form to be eligible for consideration.

### **Conditions**

Successful applicants will be required to sign a letter of agreement accepting the conditions for the REP. The following conditions apply:

- participants or their employers will pay a fee toward tuition, accommodation and meals
- travel costs to Varuna will be the responsibility of the participant
- participants will need to prepare writing and editing assignments before the REP starts
- attendance at all sessions and the ability to remain on site throughout the week are mandatory.

### **Organisation**

The organising committee is chaired by Linda Funnell (HarperCollins). Other committee members are Meredith Curnow (Random House Australia), Meredith Rose (Penguin Group Australia), Madonna Duffy (University of Queensland Press), Nicola O'Shea (Freelance), Dee Read (Australian Publishers Association), Nicola Evans (Literature Board of the Australia Council) and Robyn Sheahan-Bright (Program Manager).

The Full Report of the Residential Editorial Program held in May 2008, is available on the APA website: [http://www.publishers.asn.au/awards.cfm?doc\\_id=503](http://www.publishers.asn.au/awards.cfm?doc_id=503)

**For further information** please contact Robyn Sheahan-Bright, Program Manager, *tel* 07 4972 9760 or *email* [rsheahan@tpg.com.au](mailto:rsheahan@tpg.com.au)