



Media release

2 June 2011

VWC Announces 2011 Writers' Fellowships

The Victorian Writers' Centre is excited to announce the 2011 recipients of its first round of Writing Fellowships, providing writers' residencies at Glenfern in East St Kilda and Rosebank in the Macedon Ranges.

Readings Glenfern Fellowships for a Mid-Career Writer were awarded to Kalinda Ashton, Maria Tumarkin and Jane Sullivan. Grace Marion Wilson Fellowships for an Emerging Writer were awarded to Matthia Dempsey, S. Michael Swift and Glenys Osborne.

"These fellowships provide what all writers regard as the most precious gift – time and a place to write," said Victorian Writers' Centre Director Roderick Poole. "Time away from salaried jobs and nine-to-five routines, from everyday distractions and domestic minutiae."

Writers receive three months in a studio at Glenfern, the wonderful Gothic Victorian mansion in East St Kilda managed in partnership with the National Trust. Spaces are provided through the generous support of the Readings Foundation and the Grace Marion Wilson Trust.

Writing @ Rosebank Fellowships were awarded to Lorna Hendry, Emily Bitto, Jo Case and Jodie Hollander, giving each writer a three-week stay at the secluded Rosebank Retreat thanks to the generous support of the Grace Marion Wilson Trust, the Besen Family Foundation and the Readings Foundation, as well as the family of Mary Delahunty.

Rosebank fellow Lorna Hendry said the Fellowship would "give me the enforced solitude that I need to finish my book".

Readings Glenfern fellow Maria Tumarkin said the Fellowship would also allow her to see a writing project to completion: "All the writers out there know what it means to have a dedicated space for work. It may be a ridiculous luxury, yes, but it is also an absolute necessity. I've dragged my new book – so new, in fact, that none of it is actually written – to cafes, libraries and children's playgrounds, now I feel like I can bring it home."

The fellowship applications were judged by Paul Collins (Ford Street Publishing), Aviva Tuffield (Scribe Publications) and author Antoni Jach. The second round of applications for Fellowships will be announced later in the year.

For further comment on the Fellowships, contact Roderick Poole, Victorian Writers' Centre Director, on (03) 9094 7855 or at director@vwc.org.au. vwc.org.au