



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Victorian Writers' Centre appoints new Director

The Victorian Writers' Centre is delighted to announce the appointment of Roderick Poole as its new Director and CEO.

Roderick has an excellent background in arts management including his roles as the founding Artistic Director & General Manager of the acclaimed international performance group, *Strange Fruit*, as the manager of the Northcote Town Hall while it made the transition into a community-based arts and cultural centre and, most recently, as the Manager of Arts Across Victoria at Regional Arts Victoria. Prior to his career in arts management, Roderick worked as a playwright with companies such as Five Dollar Theatre Company, Anthill Theatre and the inaugural NIDA Playwrights' Studio.

Chair of the VWC, Chris Thompson, said; *"...in a strong field of candidates, Roderick stood out for his clear and articulate vision of the way the Victorian Writers' Centre will develop over the next several years, fulfilling its role as a key element of our City of Literature and maximising the opportunities presented by its new home at The Wheeler Centre: Books, Writing, Ideas. In particular, we were excited by Roderick's experience in working with a range of stakeholders at all levels from grassroots community members to state and federal funding bodies. In addition to this, his work with small, medium and large arts organisations in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria and his development of the Cyberpaddock website are both areas that will translate into the Centre's current strategic plan."*

Roderick takes up his new position with the Victorian Writers' Centre from July 5. *"I'm looking forward to working with the VWC staff and the Committee of Management, to getting to know the Wheeler Centre and its resident organisations and, of course, to meeting the VWC members,"* said Poole. *"This is such an exciting time for literature in Victoria and around the country. There are many challenges and new opportunities emerging and I feel fortunate to be joining the VWC at a time when we have such a responsibility to make a real contribution to the literary landscape."*

**For further comments or to arrange an interview, please contact:  
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