

# INSPIRE: National Trust of Western Australia Writer in Residence Initiative 2021

## About the National Trust of Western Australia

The National Trust of Western Australia works to raise knowledge, awareness, understanding and commitment to Western Australia's natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage. The Trust achieves this objective through the conservation and interpretation of heritage places it manages on behalf of the community and government of Western Australia, and through its education and learning programs.

The National Trust was established in Western Australia in 1959 by a group of concerned citizens who identified the need to promote heritage conservation. This group grew rapidly and included some of the most prominent citizens in the State. Some five years later an Act of Parliament was passed in the State Parliament which formally established the Trust as an independent community-based organisation.

### Mission

To connect communities to the value of Western Australia's diverse natural and cultural heritage

### Vision

To be recognised as leaders in engaging communities with the value of Western Australia's heritage to ensure its protection for future generations

Learn more about the National Trust: [nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://nationaltrust.org.au/wa)

(For the National Trust's goals, see page 8.)

## About the INSPIRE Writer in Residence initiative

Following the successful implementation of the inaugural INSPIRE Writer in Residence initiative in 2020, the National Trust is again partnering the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to respond to Recommendation 9 of their Writing Sector Review: Establish writing in residence opportunities in National Trust properties.

Through INSPIRE, the National Trust aims to Conserve and share the stories of our places, by activating its heritage assets through storytelling, engagement, participation, and interpretation (assets being places, collections, cultural stories).

INSPIRE is an exciting opportunity for Western Australian writers to undertake a residency in one of five National Trust properties in the Perth metropolitan area.

The initiative is open and responsive to writers' needs, inclusive of emerging and established writers, and recognises the breadth of storytelling and writing genres Western Australia is known for.

The benefits of the residency centre on opportunities for research, creative and professional development, encouraging excellence in writing and nurturing connections with potential publishers.

The residency is intended to INSPIRE the writer through the locations, heritage and surroundings; a unique immersion in rich cultural, historical memories, stories and artefacts of each heritage site, to act as a springboard for creative responses. It is not expected that the writer will develop literal interpretation or concepts of the historical legacy of the sites and families that lived there. The National Trust is interested in writers adding to the understanding of the sites and /or Western Australia's heritage more generally, through a contemporary lens, the sociological impacts of the place on the surrounding population, on industry development, on the way people's lives changed, and the lessons that have far reaching impacts on today's Western Australia. Most importantly, the National Trust is interested in engaging ideas, values and stories that open the public's eyes to who we are today, as West Australians.

The residencies will be up to three weeks (15 days) in length and a stipend of \$5000 will be paid to each writer for this period. The National Trust will negotiate how the writer wishes to undertake the 15 days, whether in a full-time three-week block or divided on a part-time basis across a longer timeframe. The timing of the residency is also negotiable, whether the writer is available at different times of the day, or wishes to experience the residencies' location at night. Please note, only one of the heritage sites offered in this initiative provides live-in accommodation (Curtin Family Home in Cottesloe).

We ask that the writer engage with the public and/or community of interest to consult, research, present or demonstrate the explorations and research findings at the heritage property. The Australian Heritage Festival (AHF), held across April and May each year, is an excellent time to undertake this engagement although other opportunities may also arise. The AHF in the year following your residency would be the most appropriate time.

## **The INSPIRE heritage locations**

### **[Woodbridge, Guildford, in Mandoon country](#)**

Captain James Stirling took up land here in 1829. He named his property 'Woodbridge' as it reminded him of the area around the home of his wife's family in Surrey, England. Stirling had a small cottage built but spent little time there. At the end of his term as Governor in 1839, Stirling left the colony and leased the property to various tenants.

Charles Harper married Fanny de Burgh in 1879 and the following year took up a lease at Woodbridge. In 1883 land was purchased and the Harpers began the construction of a large

family home. Two years later, Charles, Fanny, their three sons and one daughter moved into the completed house. Over the following decade three more boys and three girls were born. The family was supported by live in staff and others who came in for specific tasks.

Woodbridge supported extensive orchards of apples, pears, peaches and table grapes and there was a commercial nursery mainly stocking fruit trees and vines. Charles worked on the development of various wheat varieties, pioneered the use of artesian water for agricultural purposes, developed an inexpensive fencing system and improved pastures through the use of clover and superphosphate. Additionally, he served as a parliamentarian, was part owner of *The West Australian* newspaper and started *The Western Mail*.

In 1895 Charles established a school in the house for his children and those of neighbours. A small single storied school building was erected in 1900. It was purchased a decade later by the Church of England and went on to become what is now Guildford Grammar School. For twenty years from 1921 the house operated as Woodbridge House School. During the Second World War it was used as the Old Women's Home before its conversion in 1964 to an annexe for Governor Stirling Senior High School. Woodbridge was vested in the National Trust in 1968.

Residency includes access to a writing space, Wi-Fi, basic kitchen facilities and toilet access. There is a café on site and it is close to public transport and cycle paths. The Residency space is upstairs, without lift facilities. No overnight accommodation available.

### [Peninsula Farm, Maylands, in Wu Rut Woorat country](#)

Located on the banks of the Swan River off Johnson Road, Maylands, Peninsula Farm is the site of one of the first farms in the colony and the earliest residence still standing in the metropolitan area. Peninsula Farm offers a unique opportunity to explore the first years of European settlement in Western Australia. Constructed by Joseph Hardey in 1839, it was the third house he had built on Peninsula Farm, a property originally granted to him in 1830. Over the years the house was added to, expanded outwards and upwards. At the same time, the farm became smaller and smaller.

Peninsula Farm remained in the Hardey family until 1913. Joseph Hardey, and his son Richard, who took over management of the property in the late 1860s, were highly influential in the religious, business and political activities of the colony. Peninsula Farm, however, tells more than just their stories. It also tells of their wives and daughters, the women and servants who ran the house and the workers who ran the farm. It tells of farming, and how families and the young colony sustained themselves.

Residency includes access to a writing space, Wi-Fi and basic kitchen facilities. There is access to cycle paths but limited public transport. No overnight accommodation available. There is a standard toilet available in the house, but no disability access toilet available on site.

Please note: Peninsula Farm is a very popular property for school groups and visitors, which can interrupt quiet contemplation. A schedule of excursions can be provided for the resident writer to consider.

### [Samson Cottage, Fremantle, in Walyaup country](#)

Samson House and Cottage, along with its contents from 2 generations of the Samson family, was left to the people of Western Australia by Sir Frederick Samson. 'Fred' was elected to the Fremantle City Council in 1936 and became mayor unopposed in 1951. He remained unchallenged in that office until he retired 21 years later in 1972. His enthusiasm for the port city led to him becoming known as 'Mr Fremantle'. His legacy includes a range of industrial developments and protection and reuse of heritage buildings.

Samson House was built for Sir Frederick's father, Michael Samson, who was also Lord Mayor of Fremantle. Michael was the son Lionel Samson, one of two brothers who arrived in Western Australia aboard the Calista in 1829. They established an import export business which continues today making it one of the oldest family businesses in Australia.

Samson House, completed in 1888, is a well-known Fremantle landmark designed by Sir Talbot Hobbs.

Residency includes access to a writing space in the small cottage in the grounds of Samson House, Wi-Fi and basic kitchen facilities. It is close to public transport and walking distance to Fremantle. No overnight accommodation available. There are standard toilet facilities in the house, but no disability access toilet on site.

### [East Perth Cemeteries, in Martellup country](#)

From the establishment of the first cemetery in 1929 to the closure of the seven cemeteries in 1899 almost all of the people who died in Perth, from the wealthy and prominent to the poor or unknown, were buried here.

Over the years more than 90 per cent of the grave headstones and markers were lost through decay, neglect or wanton destruction. The remaining 800, however, now conserved by the National Trust, offer a unique opportunity to explore Perth's early years. The headstones tell stories of bravery, tragedy, illness and accident; of success and suffering.

In the middle of the Cemeteries stands a simple Gothic chapel designed by colonial architect, Richard Roach Jewell. Built in 1871 as a mortuary chapel, St Bartholomew's became the parish church in 1888. After a period of neglect, it is still a consecrated church, used for regular church services as well as weddings and other religious events.

Originally located on the edge of town, the cemeteries today are a tranquil haven within bustling inner city East Perth.

Residency includes access to a writing space, Wi-Fi and limited kitchen facilities (running water only at toilet block). It is close to public transport and walking distance from East Perth and the CBD. No overnight accommodation available. The writing space has limited disability access. There is a universal access toilet on site.

## [Curtin Family Home, Cottesloe in Whadjuk country](#)

John Curtin, wartime Prime Minister of Australia, and his wife Elsie built this house in 1923. Four generations of the Curtin's extended family lived in the house over the following seventy-five years.

The house underwent major conservation and interpretation works in 2010 including restoration of the garden. Interpretation of the place included the production of a series of internal panels, a self-guided audio tour, a booklet website and the dramatic performance season.

This National Trust project provided an exciting opportunity to focus on what is an often neglected part of John Curtin – the importance of his home life. The unassuming nature of the Jarrad Street House reflects the nature of the man and his family and helps explain his political convictions and directions for the nation during WWII.

The property has been in the care of the National Trust since 2002 and is one of only three former prime ministers' homes that are in public ownership.

Residency includes access to a writing space, Wi-Fi and kitchen facilities. It is close to public transport and walking distance to Cottesloe township and Cottesloe Beach. Live-in accommodation is dependent on availability: two bedrooms (one double bed and two single beds), one standard bathroom. Length of stay is negotiable (two-three weeks), costs of rent and services covered. Access is fair but non-wheelchair access.

## **Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

### **Eligibility**

INSPIRE residencies are open to established and emerging Western Australian writers of non-fiction, history, creative fiction, novels, short stories, poetry, graphic illustrators and digital creators (such as podcasts or blogs).

Collaborating writers, or small groups may apply, however, must share one stipend per residency. We encourage writers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to apply, including but not exclusive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers.

Writers with disability are also encouraged to apply. Each heritage residency has historical physical limitations, however the National Trust will endeavour to meet your access needs.

Writers must be over 18 years of age.

**Western Australian** means someone who was born in Western Australia (and may be living outside the state), or has lived or been a resident of Western Australia for more than twelve months.

**Emerging writer status** means at least one but no more than two full length literary works published, OR have a substantial body of minor published work and be progressed on a first major work for publication. For children's and young adult writers, graphic illustrators: published three to five literary works under 20,000 words, one to two literary works over

20,000 words, three to five picture books. Self-published writing and digital publication should demonstrate readership and review.

**Established writer status** means three or more full-length works published or performed (fiction and literary non-fiction of 30,000 words min, poetry collections of 36 pages min). For children's and young adult writers, graphic illustrators: published six or more literary works under 20,000 words, three or more literary works over 20,000 words, six or more picture books. Self-published writing and digital publication should demonstrate readership and review.

### **Selection Criteria**

Writers will be selected for the residencies by a selection panel of highly regarded writing sector representatives. A pool of selectors will be appointed at the outset of the **INSPIRE** initiative, and a group will be convened for each selection process acknowledging any conflicts of interest that the submissions may raise.

The selection panel will assess the submissions based on the following criteria and weightings:

- **Merit:** the quality of the writing – including but not limited to the craft demonstrated in story, character development, innovation in form (30 per cent).
- **Impact:** the potential impact the residency will have on the applicant's writing practice and career (20 per cent).
- **Significance:** conceptual research response to the heritage site, the potential of the opportunity to develop new contemporary Western Australian stories and literary outcomes (30 per cent).
- **Suitability:** The applicant's availability and commitment to fulfilling the residency and the community engagement outcomes (20 per cent).

### **Stipend, inclusions and exclusions and length of residency**

Most writers in residence opportunities are not paid opportunities. A writer's stipend is rare across Australia, and writers mostly pay for the residential time to retreat to a quiet space in which to research and write, and sometimes to connect with other writers, publishers and creatives.

The National Trust, through consultation with the sector, respects the profession of writing and values writers' skills and time. We acknowledge the costs involved in taking time away from paid employment, or for additional costs associated with devoting time to a residency.

INSPIRE will provide a modest stipend of \$5000 to assist writers to undertake and commit to this residency, for up to a three-week, 15-day period (full-time or part-time options are open for negotiation to suit writers' needs).

This amount also includes a fee for public presentation and/or community engagement activities at the conclusion of the residency. (Costs associated with the Curtin Family House residency will not be deducted from the \$5000 stipend).

In addition, writers will have access to the National Trust's archives for research. Volunteers are also a good research resource.

The INSPIRE Writer in Residence initiative will build links to publishers such as Fremantle Press, writers centres, and professional development. The National Trust's insurance will cover writers while onsite. Costs for any necessary police clearances / working with children checks that may need to be provided can also be covered.

The initiative does not provide for travel costs or food, and the writer must provide their own laptop and phone.

## **Application and support material**

Application to INSPIRE Writer in Residence is online, through the link on the National Trust's website at [nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/inspire-writer-in-residence-initiative-2021](https://nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/inspire-writer-in-residence-initiative-2021).

Applications may be made by the writer, or collaborating writers directly, or by nomination from a publisher, academic, supervisor etc.

Applicants are asked to provide the following support material:

- Merit: Examples of work: maximum 10,000 words.
- Writer's statement in response to the criteria:
  - Impact: Up to one A4 page on the impact the residency would have on the writer's career.
  - Significance: Up to one A4 page outlining the conceptual response / research interest connected to the heritage site/s chosen.
  - Suitability: Indication of two prioritised heritage sites for residency; potential dates and timeframes for the residency to be undertaken, indication of willingness to complete the community engagement aspects, including provision or willingness to provide a police clearance and/or Working with Children Check where relevant.

## **Closing dates and timelines**

Applications for residencies in 2021 will close Monday 19 April 2021. Applications will be accepted electronically only and received by 11.59pm.

Applicants will be notified in early May 2021.

Upon notification, successful writers will be invited to a familiarisation briefing with the National Trust to introduce writers to the archive systems and research capabilities, program expectations, and an on-site induction will be necessary to introduce the heritage sites, set up work spaces, meet volunteers and staffing, familiarise with security, local and emergency contacts, evacuation procedures etc.

The five residencies will take place between June and September 2021.

At completion, writers will be required to complete an evaluation and provide information for media and promotion of their residency outcomes.

For further information please contact Ricky Arnold, Writer in Residence Program Co-ordinator, by email: [writers@ntwa.com.au](mailto:writers@ntwa.com.au).

## **The National Trust of Western Australia – strategic information**

### **Impact and value proposition**

The Western Australian community values and conserves its natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage for the wellbeing of current and future generations

In partnership with the community and government the National Trust promotes awareness and understanding, encourages participation, actively champions protection, and leverages the economic and social value of Western Australia’s heritage.

### **Values**

Excellence  
Collaboration  
Innovation  
Courage  
Integrity  
Respect

### **Beneficiaries**

The National Trust carries out its activities for the benefit of all Western Australians.

### **Goals**

1. Position the Trust as the voice in heritage
2. Nurture, harness and grow relationships and partnerships
3. Ensure a sustainable Trust
4. Optimise heritage portfolio and resource model
5. Provide a best practice, collaborative working environment

### **Aboriginal acknowledgement**

The National Trust acknowledges its properties are situated on Aboriginal land across the state. The National Trust recognises Aboriginal people remain the cultural and spiritual custodians of their land and continue to practise their values, languages, beliefs and knowledge.

The National Trust is committed to working with Aboriginal people to ensure these practices are recognised and included in the conservation and interpretation of its properties and Aboriginal people are consulted and involved in the development of Trust projects and programs.

## **Writing Sector Review Final Recommendations**

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Writing Sector Review was conducted in 2017. It examined the challenges, strengths, opportunities, potential strategies and future directions for the writing sector in Western Australia.

[See the final recommendations](#)