

## Cove Park / Varuna - The National Writers' House of Australia Residency Exchange Programme 2024-2025

Varuna Residency  
13 October to 10 November 2025

**Deadline for Applications: Monday 4 March 2024 at 5pm GMT**



*Image: Varuna, the National Writers' House of Australia.*

### PROGRAMME INFORMATION & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

#### Overview

Published writers who are also former Cove Park residents or [Cove Park Associates](#) (our free, or pay what you can, membership programme for former residents) are now welcome to apply for a fully funded four-week residency at [Varuna - The National Writers' House of Australia](#) in the autumn of 2025.

The Cove Park/Varuna Residency Exchange Programme was launched in 2019 to create new international opportunities for writers connected to Cove Park and Varuna. It offers four-week funded residencies for published writers and former residents of both organisations. To date, and with support from [The Bridge Awards](#), we have created six residencies awarded to Jan Carson, Victoria Mackenzie and Nicola White (taking place in Australia) and to Roanna Gonsalves, Leah Kaminsky, and Jeanine Leane (taking place in Scotland).

We are pleased to confirm this programme will continue in 2024 and 2025 with ongoing support from The Bridge Awards. The programme has been adapted to run across a two-year period, with the residencies taking place in alternating years: the Varuna writer will travel to Cove Park in the autumn of 2024, and the Cove Park writer will travel to Australia in the autumn of 2025. Both residencies will coincide with leading book festivals taking place in each country. We have established a new partnership with [Wigtown Book Festival](#), connecting the participating writers with this acclaimed Scottish book festival; this partnership mirrors Varuna's connection with [The Blue Mountain Writers Festival](#).

## About Varuna

Varuna is the foremost institution for literature development in Australia. Originally the home of writers Eleanor Dark and Dr Eric Dark, the house and gardens of Varuna were gifted to the Australian public in 1989 to be used as a retreat for writers. Each year, over 200 writers participate in residencies and professional development programs at Varuna, and many hundreds more readers and writers participate in its workshop programs and literary events.

## Key Points

- The writer will receive a total residency fee of £2,000 (£500 per week) and a travel allowance of up to £1,150. Please note, meals are provided by Varuna.
- The residency is designed to support research and the development of new writing.
- Varuna and Cove Park will support research and practical requirements leading up to and during the residency.
- The writer will be invited to participate in the Blue Mountain Book Festival at the during the residency.

## What Varuna Provides

- Individual private accommodation and meals.
- Private workspace

Please visit [Varuna's Residency FAQ page](#) for more about what to expect at Varuna.

## Who Can Apply, How to Apply, Shortlisting and Appointment Process

- Published writers who are former Cove Park residents and members of Cove Park's Associates programme are eligible to apply.
- Writers with experience of presenting work at writers' festivals.

**Applications can be submitted via the online [Application Form](#).**

## The Application Form must include:

- Full name and contact details
- A statement (no more than 500 words) briefly describing current work, the reasons for your interest in this residency, and how the opportunity will be of benefit to your work and professional development.
- A sample of work of up to 1000 words (no more than 4 pages)
- A CV and short biography of up to 200 words

We can accept submissions in audio or video formats if this is preferable to a written application. If you consider yourself to have a disability, please tell us if there are any reasonable adjustments to the application process that would be of assistance to you. If you would like to discuss this, or need help making your application, please contact Cove Park's Programmes & Communications Producer [Alex Marrs](#) directly.

## **Selection for interview will be based on the following criteria:**

- The creative strength of your work and ideas.
- Your need for a period of research and development and your reasons for applying to this programme.
- Your interest in working within a community of artists.

## **Deadline for applications: Monday 4 March 2024 at 5pm GMT**

We will acknowledge receipt of your application as soon as it is received. This acknowledgement will include a link to our anonymous Equality, Diversity & Inclusion monitoring form for completion and we would be grateful for your time with this. If you do not receive this acknowledgement, please contact Cove Park directly to confirm receipt of your application.

The applications will be short-listed for interview by Cove Park and Varuna Staff and Advisors.

**All applicants will be notified if their submission has been shortlisted for interview by Monday 11 March 2024.**

**Interviews will take place via Zoom during the week of 25 March 2024.**

## **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**

We want our residencies, programmes and resources to be open, inclusive and welcoming to all. We continue to assess how we work towards achieving greater equality and representation within all levels of our organisation and across all programmes.

Cove Park aims to provide a safe and positive environment for everyone, and to actively dismantle discrimination based on race, national or ethnic background, skin colour, citizenship status, hair texture and hairstyle, sex, sexual orientation, gender(s), gender expression, age, religion or belief, language, ability, size, neurodiversity, physical and mental health, socio-economic status, educational background, pregnancy or parental status, marriage or civil partnership status, immigration status, and cultural markings and/or tattoos also due to religious rituals from pre-colonial cultural practices. As language, terms, and expressions inevitably evolve, Cove Park is committed to reviewing this statement regularly - and as often as it becomes appropriate - with our local, national and international communities.

## **Personal Data**

Please note, we will store applications electronically for one year. The data contained within your application will not be used for any purpose other than short-listing, running, and evaluating the programme. We will not share your details with any third parties without obtaining permission from you to do so.

We would prefer not to receive applications by post. However, if you would like to submit supplementary material, such as catalogues, with your application please post these to the address below. If you would like this material to be returned to you, please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

**Cove Park / Varuna Residency Exchange Programme 2024-2025**

**Cove Park**

**Peaton Hill, Cove**

**Argyll and Bute, Scotland, G84 0PE**

**For further information please contact:**

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**THE  
BRIDGE  
AWARDS**

**VARUNA**  
The National Writers' House

 **WIGTOWN  
BOOK FESTIVAL**