

MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional Emerging Writer Residency brings Alice Springs talent to Newcastle

The Newcastle Writers Festival is delighted to announce that Alice Springs writer Michael Giacometti has been selected for the inaugural Regional Emerging Writer Residency, offered in partnership with The Lock-Up and University of Newcastle. Giacometti will spend two weeks in Newcastle in the lead up to the festival in April and will also participate in the program.

The three judges were impressed by his submission, which included an evocative short story written from the perspective of a six-year-old Indigenous child. Giacometti has spent the past decade working and travelling across isolated parts of Australia, including a walk across the Simpson Desert in 2008.

Festival director Rosemarie Milsom said the Festival aimed to promote the work of regional writers and the residency added another layer to this.

"Michael is actively involved in the Alice Springs writing community and it is wonderful to be able to offer him an opportunity to connect with other writers in Newcastle as well as being able to focus on his writing."

Giacometti said he was looking forward to visiting Newcastle for the first time and would use the residency to continue working on his outback gothic novel.

"Regional writers are far removed from the literary landscape and opportunities of the major cities," he said.

"And though this creates some problems of isolation, it allows regional writers to develop a vastly different perspective, focus, and voice to urban writers. I am looking forward to exploring the Newcastle region, writing and engaging with local writers and creatives at The Lock-Up and Newcastle Writers Festival."

The emerging writer residency is supported by The Lock-Up and University of Newcastle. It was judged by Newcastle Writers Festival director Rosemarie Milsom, University of Newcastle Creative Writing lecturer Dr Keri Glastonbury and writer and former director of the Emerging Writers' Festival Sam Twyford-Moore.

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