



Frensham

ELISABETH MAYNARD

Writer-in-Residence

PROGRAM

Introduction

Now entering its third year, the **Elisabeth Maynard Writer-in-Residence Program** is a growing tradition at Frensham. The School, based in the beautiful NSW Southern Highlands just 1.5 hours from Sydney, will provide an emerging or established practitioner of the literary arts with the opportunity to work on an original text of significance, whilst shaping the next generation of young writers.

Over 10 weeks, accommodation will be provided for the recipient, as they compose their literary work. At the same time, they will collaborate with Frensham staff to support students to cultivate their own appreciation of creative writing via a range of workshops, master classes and experiential learning opportunities.

The rolling hills and community spirit of the Southern Highlands have long been a source of inspiration for creatives. Frensham's own literary alumni includes esteemed poet, Rosemary Dobson, playwright, Henrietta Drake-Brockman, investigative journalist, Kate McClymont, and 2015 Miles Franklin Award winning author, Sofie Laguna, among many others. The school is delighted to continue its rich tradition of service to Australian literature as it honours Elisabeth Maynard's legacy.

We warmly welcome applications from writers across the nation, and look forward to supporting the deserving artist as they in turn contribute to our School's reputation for creative and academic excellence.

Geoff Marsh

Head of Frensham
Head of Frensham Schools



About

Elisabeth Maynard (Delamore, 1953) had a lifelong passion for literature. She was a voracious reader with a vivid imagination. Her cherished years at Frensham gave rise to many fond memories, including Pen and Ink Club, performances in the Holt and quiet times reading in the beautiful gardens. Much of her life inspiration stemmed from her years at Frensham. For her it was a very special place where she made lifelong friends. Her bond with the school endured across generations, with three daughters and then three granddaughters following in her footsteps. Elisabeth dreamed of one day writing a novel, so it is fitting to establish this program in her honour, to encourage, inspire and support young writers and to give back to the school she loved.



Program aim

- To assist an emerging or established writer to create work that will benefit from time spent in the beautiful natural surroundings of Frensham and from interaction with its community.
- To provide Frensham students and staff with creative writing assistance and inspiration.
- To provide Frensham students with the opportunity to understand the creative process involved in producing a significant body of work such as a novel or play.
- To provide a sense of connection to the literary landscape for the Frensham community.

Structure

ELISABETH MAYNARD WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM 2027

Period: One school term per year, 10 weeks

When: Wednesday 28 April – Thursday 24 June 2027 (Term 2)

Residency requirements:

- Four days per week on campus.
- Equivalent of 2 full-time days per week assisting students, for instance: workshops, in class, Pen & Ink (extra-curricular writing group), drop-in service (during drop-in service, resident writer would be able to work on their own project if nobody attends).
- Equivalent of 2 full-time days per week to work on their current project.
- Creative writing workshops may be facilitated by the writer during the ten-week residency.



How to apply

Residency provisions:

- \$10,000 for 10 weeks (\$1,000 per week) stipend. Total value inclusive of food and accommodation is approximately \$15,000.
- Accommodation will be provided on campus by the school, or a guest cottage provided by a Patron, or a combination of both.
- A place to write and work on campus will be provided
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner are available at no cost from the Frensham Dining Room at specific times.

Please note, travel costs to and from the school are not covered by the residency.

Applicants are required to submit:

- a writing sample of between 3000–5000 words and provide information about the project they are working on
- a 2–3 minute video of themselves, discussing their writing, why they would benefit from this opportunity or how their assistance might benefit students

Submitted material must be your own original work, such as:

- Fiction of all genres, narrative nonfiction, poetry and plays
- Film and television scripts
Instructional books and translations are not eligible.
- Applicants must be over 18 years of age
- Applicants must be an Australian Citizen
- Applicants must be an emerging or established writer
- Applicants may only submit one application

Your application:

- Please complete an application form at www.frensham.nsw.edu.au/writer-in-residence
- Applications are due by Friday 9 October 2026.

For more information: Victoria Hindmarch – 02 4860 2000.

*A teacher's work is not
to dominate but to
inspire, not to mould
but to awaken, not to
control but to set free.*

Winifred West



Frensham
SCHOOLS

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