WRITERS ON TRACK ACROSS REGIONAL QUEENSLAND

Media Release

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Meet some of Queensland's best authors when the Q150 Steam Train makes tracks across regional Queensland from June 1-6.

Queensland Writers Centre (QWC) will present three Queensland writers at free community events across the state.

Acclaimed novelist **Matthew Condon** *(The Trout Opera, The Courier-Mail's QWeekend magazine)*, award-winning children's author/illustrator **Gregory Rogers** *(The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, the Bard* and *A Midsummer Knight)* and emerging author **Belinda Jeffrey** *(Brown Skin Blue*) will be featured in the June train journey.

"Regional Queensland is full of great stories, from our past, present and future," said QWC CEO Kate Eltham.

"This project brings writers to regional communities to share their stories and ideas and be inspired to create new ones."

Travelling along The Inlander route, the historic steam train will visit Townsville, Charters Towers, Hughenden, Cloncurry and finish in Mount Isa in time for Queensland Day.

In each community the authors will deliver free workshops and readings after school hours for children and informal author events in the evenings for adults.

This project also includes ***Tracks***, an online journal where the authors will post text, audio and visual entries from their journey - for participants to read, watch, comment, remix and mash up! Visit ABC Radio National's social networking website www.pool.org.au to get involved.

QWC CEO Kate Eltham said, "Even if you don't live in the communities visited by the trains, you can be a part of this significant event and read, create, write and publish online."

The Q150 Steam Train pays homage to the historic 1990 Writers Train journey across regional Queensland, created by Laurie Muller, then General Manager of University of Queensland Press (UQP). The inaugural Writers Train carried Thea Astley, Ross Clark, Silvana Gardner, Rodney Hall, Victor Kelleher, Thomas Keneally, Kominos, Hugh Lunn, Adele Moy, Estelle and Peter Pinney, Bill Rosser, Rosie Scott, Tim Winton, Janette Turner Hospital and emerging writer of the time, Nick Earls.

The writers on the Q150 Steam Train are presented by Queensland Writers Centre with the support of Q150 and Copyright Agency Limited, and in partnership with Book Links and the Childrens Book Council of Australia.

Kate Eltham, Matthew Condon, Gregory Rogers and Belinda Jeffrey, are available to interview.

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