**WRITING WORKSHOP - MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

**Introductory ‘feature’** – **Carmel Bird, Como Writers’ Festival, 2007**

Australian writer Carmel Bird has been a great support to budding writers/writing groups. Carmel spoke about the inspiration behind and key ideas in her third book on writing - 'Writing the Story of Your Life' –when interviewed at the Como Writers' Festival in Melbourne in 2007. It was recorded for the ABC’s Bookshow and is well worth listening to, which we will do to begin this session. There is also a transcript.  You can find links below and on the website.

**Listen:**   [mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2007/04/bsw\_20070420\_1000.mp3  
​](http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2007/04/bsw_20070420_1000.mp3)**Transcript:** Program page with transcript -<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/archived/bookshow/writing-the-story-of-your-life-with-carmel-bird/3402224#transcript>  
  
**Sharing our stories for September:**  **‘How we Met’**

[*How we met*](https://open.abc.net.au/explore?projectId=78&sortBy=interest&isFeatured=0)  *‘Our best friends, neighbours, partners, lovers were all strangers once. Tell us how you met a kindred spirit and what the relationship means to you’.*

**A Memoir Related Writing Exercise ‘Think of a clock or a watch’**

*A memoir related writing exercise from Carmel Bird-* 'Clocks' preceded by showing of the clocks and watches from the Collectors page on the website!  “Forget about being hot, forget about where you are, just listen to this and think about what I ask you to think about.

[reading from Think of a clock or a watch... to ...like Chinese paper flowers.]

So that's where I ask people to begin...to begin by reflecting on and recalling a specific clock or watch from early childhood and writing a description of that, keeping writing for 20 minutes. It doesn't matter where the writing takes you eventually, it may take you a million miles from clock or watch but you start with the clock and the clock is ticking.”

**Next Sessions**

*OCTOBER 22* (1) It is customary to present a poem or a piece of writing (word limit open section is 800 words’ on the topic for the Benalla Festival’s Writing Competition at our October meeting. The topic for this year’s festival theme, and for the writing competion, is ‘Our Back Yard’, which celebrates special places and spaces in our community. Be creative – There are many ideas on the entry form– and I’m sure you can think of more. Entries close at 5pm on the day of our session!

and/or

Personal Challenge Often the most rewarding challenges are the ones we set ourselves. Share a story about stepping outside your comfort zone in the name of self-improvement.

*NOVEMBER 26* Endings Our lives are made up of many phases that shape who we become. Reflect on a time when something important in your life ended, and how it affected you.

**Poetry Evening at NEA “**On Friday night 28th of September the North East artisans building at 122 Bridge St East, Benalla will be the venue for a poetry performance. Following the successful Winter solstice night in June, we are honouring the season changes with an equinoxish event. So, whether you are an experienced reciter, a beginner or would like to give it a go, come along, bring your own work or poems that you love and get involved.  Tea and coffee will be provided, and perhaps you would like to bring a plate of home baked goodies to share.  Also a gold coin or pinkie to cover heating and power would be welcome. The session will begin at 7pm and run to 9pm.”

Seamus Foley