

***Family Research - Writing stories –
from 150 to 400 words or thereabouts, oral presentations fine too!***

February	'Family Trait' Did you inherit a family trait? What is it? Who in your family seems to share this family trait – go back as far as you like. How does it play out in your life? How did it seem to play out in their life/lives?
March	'A Family Treasure' In this session, bring along a family treasure, however humble, which you can't bear to part with yet, together with a story about it to share with others. Writer Judy Perry is going to run a session in which you will develop skills in the 'creative writing' of family history. Writer Judy Perry will share a story to expand our awareness of the creative writing of family history.
April	'Grandparents' x eg. 8 stories if you include great grandparents! Describe your relationship with a grandparent using one fond memory. Draw on your senses to recall specific details and reflect on the impact he or she made on your life. It may be the time Gran nearly set the kitchen on fire with the Christmas pudding, or the time your 92-year old Grandpa rode the Octopus with you at Luna Park. It could be a story about your Grandmother's heritage and how she came to Australia; or about the era your grandfather represents, the role he played in your upbringing, a special ritual you shared.
May	'In search of' Write about someone who is proving, or proved to be, difficult to find. Who were they, what did you find out about them and what would you still like to know. If you face or faced obstacles along the way, describe them and how you managed to resolve them. Are you 'happy enough' with your findings to date?
June	'Found' One of the thrills of family research is unexpected contact with someone who is also working on your family tree. They may even be a close, but long-lost family member. Write about the first contact, how you/they followed up, what you learnt or gained from the contact Do you keep in touch?
July	'I wish I'd met/known...' Sometimes while we are researching we come across someone we wish we'd met or known. Write about them, what intrigued you about them and what you would like to ask them if you met.
August 26	'A Family Secret' Have you come across, or do you suspect, a family secret or two in your tree? Write about a family secret you don't mind sharing with others.
September	'Memories treasure chest'... (1) Create or draw upon a 'Memories Treasure Chest' in a shoe box or other chest, drawer, cupboard, shelf containing objects and artefacts that capture your family history in some way, through scent and feel. Maps, menus, theatre programs, an old report card, vials of perfume, a garment, treasured photographs, a souvenir, an expired passport can sometimes trigger a family story rich with detail. (2) Select one or two items from your treasure chest as creative prompts – who do they relate to, and how do they relate to your family? What were they doing, who were they with, at the time this object related to their life? What else do they suggest or mean to you? (250 words for each object)
October	'A black hole...' Write about a 'black hole' you are still perplexed about in your research. Who does it involve? What do you know about them? Where is the gap in your research? What do you think may have happened ie. What are your 'hypotheses'/What is your hunch? Why do you think you are still finding it hard to make a breakthrough? Where to next?
November	'Census' Find one of your favourite families in your family tree. Pick a year for a census in which you describe what you know about where they were living, who was likely to be living there, what their occupations were, what else was happening in the country, world at the time... in fact anything else you know about them then. Create your own census, or draw upon a census document you have found during your research to develop your 'census report' around.