

‘As Time Goes By’ Topics 2022

Month	Topic	Details -	Alternative topic recommended for newer class members	Details – these topics are either stories completed in previous years which worked well, or topics which are very flexible and can be revisited in different ways.
Holiday Break- December	‘One Moment, This Year’	Looking back on 2021, what single moment stands out for you? Whether it be loss, love, discovery or disappointment, share your unforgettable moment.		
January	‘Memoir’ Review	Head for your bookshelf, the library or an online book store to retrieve a memoir, preferably one which has meant something to you. When did it enter your life? How did it then, or does it now, relate to your life story?		Note – There is a framework to assist you in structuring a memoir review on the website – here’s the link: https://u3abenalla.weebly.com/uploads/3/9/6/1/39611571/22_atgb_memoir_of_importance_to_me_framework_suggestion.pdf
February	‘I Was There’	Have you experienced a significant news, historical or cultural event first-hand? Share your personal piece of history in 500 words.	‘New in Town’	Have you ever been the new person in town? Or did someone else's arrival have a profound impact on you? Share your story in 500 words.
March	‘Tree stories...’	Reflect for a few minutes on the role or presence of trees earlier in your life, brainstorming a list of your thoughts. Draw upon your list to write about two or three of these memories of trees, taking us back into your world at the time, the meaning of these trees to you then, and perhaps even now.	‘A Childhood Memory’	Some childhood memories stay with us despite the passage of time. Some of these memories involve something which happened which inspired and built on our imagination. Share a story taking us back to one of your earliest memories.
April	‘Community’	Write about a community you observed and participated in, taking this opportunity to write about a slice of your life’s journey which may be of interest to your family. It could be a community in which you felt you were a really ‘good fit’, a community which changed you, a community you were glad to leave behind.... Share your reflections in 500 words	‘Anzac Day’ – if you haven’t written this before, or have come up with a different ‘slice of life’... (also relates to ‘community’) (could be another ‘Memorial Day’ if you don’t have an Anzac Day story)	Looking back over your lifetime, write about your memories of Anzac Day and its place in the cultural rituals of your family and the communities in which you have lived, moving from the personal to the political if you wish. <i>“A chance to reminisce about memories of Anzac Day (or Days) which have stayed with us over time”.</i>
May	‘Long lost friend’	Have you ever come across a long-lost friend years after first meeting them? Write about	‘A Friendship Tested’	A true friend is there through thick and thin, but not all friendships survive under pressure. Tell us about a time

		the period of time when you first knew them, how you lost touch and the major changes in your life sense, how you met them, and your reflections on doing so. Are you still in contact? Explain what has happened since you came across them again. <i>(Note – you could substitute other 'long lost'...eg. family member, item, pet...)</i>		when a friendship was put to the test. Did it strengthen your relationship, or push it over the edge?
June	'Causes'	Tell us about a time, or times, when you have taken on a cause you were passionate or concerned about. When did this occur; why was it important to you, how did you go about addressing it - with what result?	'Rebellion'	Have you ever challenged authority, defied expectation or fought for your beliefs? Choose a single, defining act of rebellion in your life & tell us about it.
July	'Ritual'...Coming of Age stories...	Write about a memorable ritual event in your life (or in which you were involved)- it could be a 21st, making a debut; engagement, wedding, child 's christening, first communion, confirmation or other cultural milestone Why did you choose this particular ritual to write about?	Memories Treasure Chest	(1) Create/Draw upon an 'Memories Treasure Chest' in a shoe box containing objects and artefacts that enliven your memories, 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 work rich with detail. (2) Select two items from the treasure chest as creative prompts – what do they mean to you? What were you doing, why; what were you thinking at the time this object related to your life? (250 words for each object)
August	'Right Here, Right Now'	'A time capsule of the present. Write a story about a situation currently unfolding in your life, right here, right now.'	'Member's Choice'	This is your chance to develop your own '500 words' topic and share it with others!
September	"Bucket List"	Most of us have a "bucket list" of things we'd like to achieve in life (e.g., "Seeing the Northern Lights" or "Writing my memoirs"!), a catch-all list of life goals, dreams, places and aspirations? Do you remember when something was first added to your bucket list, the circumstances surrounding it? Which have you achieved, and which are you still on your list? Share your bucket list stories in 500 words.	"It's never too late"	Do you have an 'It's never too late story' about yourself or someone you know or knew? Share your story in 500 words.

October	Benalla Festival Writing Competition Topic!	To be confirmed.	'This (.....) Life '	The Australian newspaper's weekend Review considers original submissions of 450 – 500 words for their 'This (...) Life' story. Our alternative topic for October draws upon this format! <i>Examples June 27-28 'This (Downsizing) Life' by an 80+ year old about planning to farewell loved home; July 4-8 'This (Number 8) Life' about growing up as 'Number 8' in a family of nine children. Also – check out 'This (....) life stories by group members on our web page'.</i>
November	One Moment, This Year	Looking back on 2022 to date, what single moment stands out for you? Whether it be loss, love, discovery or disappointment, share your unforgettable moment.	'Triggers'	Keep a notebook close by this month in which to note any 'triggers' which led you to reminisce about a time in your lives. You may have been talking to someone, watching television or a film, driving somewhere, reading a book. Choose one to three of these and write about the memories evoked – keeping the total words to 500 – 750 words.
December /Holiday Break #1	To be advised		To be advised	
Back up topics to do at some stage which would add to your memoirs!	'The Year that Made Me' (A topic often used by ABC interviewers with Australian living treasures.)	Write about a year which made a particular difference in your life's journey. Over to you!	'My Other Life'	Are you a collector of model trains, a swing dance enthusiast or a weekend activist? Share a story about something unusual you get up to outside of work, or a side of yourself that other people don't normally see... Tell us about your unusual passion and how you first got involved in it. How does your 'other self' contrast with the side most people see? What satisfaction does your other life offer you that you don't get from your day-to-day life? How does your passion contribute to you as a whole person?

Don't forget you can always substitute an earlier topic or make up your own if you have writer's block!