

'As Time Goes By' (Memoir Writing) 2023

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| <i>Introduction</i> | 'As Time Goes By' memoir writing sessions provide an outlet and support for members keen to write about their lives and to tell stories their families may not get around to asking them about. A memoir is a slice from a person's life which focuses on a particular theme or lesson or flavour of experience, an aspect of life that is most unusual or fascinating. Each month class members reminisce, write about and share memorable 'slices' from their lives in response to set '500 Words' themed writing topics" |
| <i>Convenor/s and other roles</i> | Convenor - Bev Lee Newsletter Correspondent/Back up Convenor - Graham Jensen |
| <i>Contact details</i> | Bev Lee - 5762 8171 Mobile: 0478607838 Email: bevlee47@gmail.com |
| <i>Time & Place</i> | A two-hour session – third Monday - 2 & 4 pm - in the U3A Meeting Room. |
| <i>Webpages</i> | Home Page 'As Time Goes By' Our Writing 'Our Stories' and 'Stories by Topic' |
| <i>Background Information</i> | 'As Time Goes By' began as Writing Workshop in 2015 with a focus on writing short memoir related stories drawing upon topics from the ABC Open program '500 words'. We had great fun, ending the year with a portfolio of cherished stories. We are still going eight years later, with a change of title to 'As Time Goes By' in 2019 to distinguish us from 'Creative Writing'. We continue be inspired by new topics developed in the spirit of ABC Open's '500 Words' program. Check out 'Our Stories' on the website . Please note - The course does not cover writing skills or writing a detailed, chronological autobiography. |
| <i>What is memoir? How does it differ from autobiography?</i> | <p>"Memoir is a unique genre—it's not autobiography or a chronological retelling of one's entire life events. Rather, it's telling a narrow and specific story around a life theme or event, and importantly, the interpretation of those events and what they mean for all of us looking forward. People write memoirs about all sorts of life events, major and small: divorcing their partner, learning to surf, hiking the Pacific Crest Trail. There is always something learned, which is then shared....</p> <p>Memoirs are worth reading in their own right. The memoirist can teach you a new lesson about the world that you could find instructive, interesting, or comforting. Memoirs are like getting a secret peek into someone's life—but they want you to peek. And more than that, memoirists want you to get inside, to swim around, to drink." 7 Books to Teach You How to Write a Memoir - Ricki Tremblay blogging in 'The Spellbinding Shelf' (2021)</p> <p>"Writing a memoir is not the same as writing an autobiography. In an autobiography, you typically start at the beginning of your life and record all the details you can remember, chronologically. In a memoir, you take a slice from your life—a particular theme or lesson or flavor of experience—and write about that, pretty much ignoring the rest....authors with a special story to tell generally write memoirs, not autobiographies. They focus on an aspect of their life that is most unusual or fascinating..." Blogger Jessi Rita Hoffman, 7 Common Mistakes in First Time Memoir Writing</p> |

*First meeting in
2023 - Monday
20th February 2
to 4 pm.*

New members are encouraged to bring along a story, either:

'I Was There'... Have you experienced a significant news, historical or cultural event first-hand? Share your personal piece of history in 500 words.

or (a topic which works well for members relatively new to Benalla)

'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'.

However, it's fine to 'pass' and enjoy the stories shared by others.

Looking forward to meeting you on Monday 20 February at 2 pm in meeting room 1!

Beverley Lee, Convenor