

## 'As Time Goes By' - July 17

### Review of Last Session – lots of apologies last time, so a review might be useful

- Carmyl's report
- Icebreaker on 'winter memories' – consider writing up and including with your collection...
- Reminder of the key sentence/universal themes underpinning memoir.... 'A Song for Mary – not just a tale of 'immigrant life\*', but a universal story of 'a mother's love for her child\*' and 'a child's determination to do his mother proud\*' (\*universal themes)
- Stories - 'Changing my mind' and 'I quit'; also Graeme's 'Car Stories'
- Editing challenges/discussion –
  - Numbers under 10 - *Numbers under and over 10 – generally spell out numbers under 10 unless it is followed by a precise unit of measurement eg. 7 years old. Good reference - <https://www.scribbr.com/academic-writing/numbers/>*
  - Swearing – eg. 'Oh Shit!', 'made a real ball's up'... - NB context, 'artistic freedom',
  - Using Thesaurus – related to 'shocked' <https://www.powerthesaurus.org/shocked/synonyms>
  - [\*Exceptions to old rules... beginning sentences with 'And...' \(when in doubt don't?\); Kids vs children ... ? \(kids or children is 'about connection, not perfection'.... .... It means looking at the setting..., the people speaking, etc\)\*](#)

### Memoir Review/s?

Framework for a short 'report' ... Share five things

- Title/subtitle/
- Author/
- Subtitle/'lens' or focus/
- Universal themes such as 'Career loss'; 'midlife crisis'; 'motherhood/fatherhood'; 'grief'; etc
- Highlight – how it related to something in/about your life; etc.

**Handout new guidelines sheet for both short/oral and longer/written memoir reviews.**

### Reminiscence icebreaker -

Talk about a craft or hobby or other interest that was important to you as a child and perhaps recurred in some form throughout your life.... How did you get interested, absorbed in it, who inspired/helped you.... With what results? Has it recurred, perhaps in other interests, over time?

### Catch up stories

**From June #1 - '[I Changed My Mind...](#)'** Describe a time when you changed, or had your mind changed, perhaps through some advice, direct or indirectly received. Describe the context in which this happened, and what opportunities (hopefully) resulted as a result of this.

*Heather Hartland*

*Bev Lee*

**From June #2 - '[I quit](#)'** Tell your story of quitting. Did you quit a sport, a job, a bad habit? Was quitting your act of defiance or were you giving up? ... "We've all quit something - a job, a musical instrument, a food group or a bad habit. Tell us your story of quitting. What brought you to breaking point? Was it exhilarating or challenging to quit? What strengths did you draw upon and how did people react? What new opportunities were created once you quit?"

*Graham – Catan*

*Barry – Work*

## This month's stories - July 17

**'True Confessions'** - (Life Matters 500 Words 2021) "Tell us about a time when you fessed up to someone, or someone fessed up to you...or when you heard the truth from someone who'd been keeping it to themselves... What happened when the truth was revealed? It can be funny or sad or quirky or powerful, it just needs to be true, and it needs to be your story to tell. You can of course change names to protect people."... "It could be with yourself, or within your family, but please change names if you need to."

Example - ABC's 'Life Matters' stories on True Confessions [Lindy's Three Confessions](#)

*Ray O'Shannessy*

*James Davey*

**'It happened in Vegas'/'What happened in Vegas, stays in Vegas'** - (September 2016) Spill the beans on something from one of your holidays, something that just doesn't happen in everyday life. Ideas that could help to get you moving – look at photo albums, emails, letters, even Facebook – get yourself reminders of holidays and the events that happened on them, then describe one of those holiday moments in detail.

Example - Jenny McKenna's story - ['What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas', September 2016](#).

*'What happened at the AGP stays at the AGP' (Heather Wallace)*

*'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' (Neville Gibb)*

*'It happened during the war' (Barry)*

*'What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' (Bev Lee)*

## [Member's Choice](#) –

*Carmyl – 'A Steep Learning Curve'*

*Phiona - 'My Family and Other Animals'*

**Past stories** - Heather Hartland - [Learning from History](#) ('Life's Lessons Learnt...'); Her Story

**Editing Reminders** - To keep readers interested, break up long sentences with more than one 'and'! Consider using a short and a medium length sentence. Remember, short sentences are fine!

## Coming up on August 21

**Topic 1 'Retirement'** Retirement is a transition which can be quite complex, involve a range of losses, may be dreaded, involve celebrations and be looked forward to, indeed all of the above! ... Share the story of your retirement from a role which was important to you at some stage of your life – how did you negotiate it? How did you feel about the transition at the time? How do you feel about it now?

*(NB-'Retirement' stories not included on the website unless you agree—people may still be alive!).*

Example - Marg McCrohan's ['This \(Retirement\) Life'](#)

**Topic 2 'What I was wearing'** (December 2015/April 2018) Some items of clothing are linked to memories, emotions and experiences - the jacket you wore on your first date, a bikini that didn't fare well in water, a unique find at a market, a hand me down. Why is it special? What significant moments occurred while you were wearing it? What do you think, feel and remember when you see it? Bring it, or a photo of it, to class if you can. *Or*

**'An item of clothing which symbolizes a time in my life...'** (Suggestion from Graham Jensen for 2023)

Write a story about an item of clothing you still have (or have a photo of) which symbolizes a time or event in your life. Tell the story surrounding the clothing, the context in which it appeared in your life, significant moments which occurred while wearing it, what it means to you, why you find it hard to let go. Try to bring along the item of clothing, or a photo of it, if you can!