

## 'As Time Goes By' (Memoir Writing) 2024

Introduction	<p>Explore your life's extraordinary moments with 'As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing', a creative outlet and supportive community for members eager to pen the stories of their lives that their families may never have the chance to ask about.</p> <p>A memoir is a selected slice of one's life, a captivating glimpse into a particular theme, lesson, or experience. In our monthly sessions, members embark on a journey of reminiscence, sharing stories in response to themed writing topics, with a recommended limit of 500 words.</p> <p>'As Time Goes By - Memoir Writing' is not a traditional writing skills class. It is not designed to guide you through the process of creating a detailed, timeline-based autobiography. Instead, it's a platform for sharing profound and cherished moments of your life within a warm and empathetic community of fellow memoirists.</p>
Roles	Convenor - Bev Lee    Newsletter Correspondent - Graham Jensen
Contact details	Bev Lee - 5762 8171    Mobile: 0478607838    Email: <a href="mailto:bevlee47@gmail.com">bevlee47@gmail.com</a>
Time & Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday from 2 & 4 pm in U3A Room 1 commencing <b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Webpages	Home Page: <a href="#">'As Time Goes By'</a> Our Writing: <a href="#">'Our Stories'</a> and <a href="#">'Stories by Topic'</a>
Background	<p>'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 nine years later, with a change of title to 'As Time Goes By' in 2019 to distinguish us from 'Creative Writing'. We continue to be inspired by new topics developed in the spirit of ABC Open's '500 Words' program.</p>
What is memoir? How does it differ from autobiography?	<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>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." <i>7 Books to Teach You How to Write a Memoir - Ricki Tremblay blogging in 'The Spellbinding Shelf' (2021)</i></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..." <i>Blogger Jessi Rita Hoffman, 7 Common Mistakes in First Time Memoir Writing</i></p>

<p>First meeting in 2024 <b>Monday 19th February,</b> 2 to 4 pm.</p>	<p>New members are encouraged to bring along a story, either:</p> <p><b>'New in Town'</b> <i>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'.</i></p> <p>(a topic which works well for members relatively new to Benalla)</p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>'I Was There'...</b> <i>Have you experienced a significant news, historical or cultural event first-hand? Share your personal piece of history in 500 words.</i></p> <p>However, it's fine to 'pass' and enjoy the stories shared by others.</p> <p>Looking forward to meeting you on Monday 20 February at 2 pm in meeting room 1!</p> <p>Beverley Lee, Convenor</p>
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Notes: Perhaps some ideas for your first story?