

Writing Workshop

Monday 27th February 2017

Agenda

Apologies – Shirley Roberts, Ishbel Wales

Welcome

Introductory activity

Find someone you don't already know well and talk to them about why they decided to come to writing workshop and anything to do with writing that you can find out about them. Be prepared to introduce them to the rest of us telling us something about them you found quite engaging.

How Writing Workshop Operates

We have a shared topic a month, usually drawn from ABC Open's Writing Project, which we write from 500 to 1000 words about. We aspire to 500 words – but it's clear that some people's writing style makes this difficult. Narrowing the focus of the story to develop the key idea more fully is suggested by the 500 words project. Some people just hear the topic eg. 'New in Town', and off they go, others look up the links to ABC Open's website to read one or two stories submitted for the topic for inspiration. (An example is our occasional contributor Pat Treleaven's response to My Other Life. Pat submitted two or three stories while it was still possible to do so).

Aim: 500 words is aspirational; no more than 1000 words if possible.

We have endeavoured, printers willing, to print off a copy for everyone. By the end of last year more people were reading them out, and we occasionally printed out copies on the printer. Purpose: Initially we were going to use the printed copies to edit the persons' work and make suggestions, but we have from the beginning been positive and supportive and understanding of a range of difference in writing styles and skills. Bev does an occasional edit when putting stories on the website. There is an advantage in having printed copies for members with hearing difficulties.

Aim: Print if possible.

Without a lot of fanfare we have included most of our stories on the website under 'Our Stories', sometimes with a photograph. 'Our Stories' are actually quite popular in terms of hits on the website. You can elect not to have particular stories on the web site. I've certainly done this.

Aim: Continue to publish on website where agreed to.

We have a number of people interested in creative writing, in constructing characters and imaginary worlds, and developing their writing skills in this area.

Aim: For stories to be able to be presented in a creative style if preferred.

Further Action: For a few people to get together to see if they would like to have a special time slot for this group, or to find other groups which meet this need. There is a Writers Corner at the Library; there is word that the Benalla Writers is to be reconvened through North East Artisans in the coming month.

We have a fortnightly coffee catch up meeting to give us the chance to write additional stories, to present 'catch up' stories we have missed, to talk about ideas for the next topic for our regular session. It settled into a session at the Northo last year after our choice of 'Somewhere' closed.

Aim: to continue the coffee catch up for the reasons given above.

Further Action: to monitor what the our creative writing people want to do – there is a room based timetable slot for the same afternoon still available if they want to use it.

Suggested Next Topic: 'Stock and Land'

The topic for our March session on March 27 is 'Stock and Land' – tell us about a significant memory involving farming, agriculture or rural life. You must include mention of at least one animal or crop and one piece of farm equipment. If you haven't lived on a farm, you might like to write about a long remembered visit to or experience of a farm or agriculture, something referencing rural life, ideally set in the north east. It could even be about memories of a visit to an agricultural show or about backyard chooks in urban settings. Write about something you haven't written about before which you'd like to share with your family and others.

Notes:

Alternative topic/s:

February's still available - [I Broke It](#) A broken plate, a broken bone, a broken record, or even being broke. Tell us about a time you broke something, and what repercussions you faced.

March – [U-Turn](#) A single decision can turn your day - or life - around. Share how a sudden change of direction altered what happened next.

Notes: