

Writing Workshop– from February 2017 to March 2018

Month	Topic	Brief	Your Notes – eg. Completed, etc
February	‘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	‘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	
April	‘Failure’	‘Write about a failure you’ve experienced – from the commonplace to the catastrophic – in 500 words’.	
May	‘I Was There’	Have you experienced a significant news, historical or cultural event first hand? Share your personal piece of history in 500 words.	
June	An Act of Rebellion	Have you ever challenged authority, defied expectations, or fought for your beliefs? Choose a single defining act of rebellion in your life and tell us about it.	<hr/>
July	Travel Tales	Everyone's got at least one good travel story to tell. Share your best story of adventure or misadventure in 500 words or less.	
August	‘Odd One Out’	Have you ever felt like you didn't fit in? Too old or too young? Wrong clothes or different culture? Write about a time you felt out of place and why’.	
September	‘Fish Out of Water’	‘Have you had a unique experience when you were a 'fish out of water'? A time when you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felt totally out of your element • Felt like an outsider • Were a foreigner traveling or living in a new country • Were a rookie on the new job • Were in another unfamiliar and uncomfortable situation Share your experience in 500 words.	

October	'Good Vibrations'	This was the topic for the Benalla Festival's writing competition – eventually group members came up with some wonderful angles through which to consider 'Good Vibrations'	
November	'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.'	
Holiday topic	'Lost in Music' And/Or 'Working Dog' And/Or 'Things I've left behind'	<i>Lost in Music</i> : 'Music can have a powerful effect on our emotions and create a lasting impact on our memory. Describe an experience when you got lost in a single piece of music, and what made it so unforgettable'. <i>Working Dog</i> : share a story about the memorable antics of a working dog, past or present <i>'Things I've left behind'</i> —another rich opportunity to reminisce!	These topics will be shared at the pub meeting at the Northo at 2.30 on the 12 th February. (<i>Lost in Music</i> was decided upon initially – but it seemed that this mightn't appeal to everyone so we added some alternatives.
February '18	'Grandparents'	Describe your relationship with a grandparent using one fond memory. Draw on your senses to recall specific details and reflect on the impact he or she made on your life. It may be the time Gran nearly set the kitchen on fire with the Christmas pudding, or the time your 92 year old Grandpa rode the Octopus with you at Luna Park. It could be a story about your Grandmother's heritage and how she came to Australia. Your story could be about the era your grandfather represents, and the role he played in your upbringing or a special ritual you shared. Need inspiration? Check out 'Grandparents' stories on ABC Open... here	This topic will be shared at our regular meeting on 26 th February.
March '18	'Testing the Friendship'	'A true friend is there through thick and thin, but not all friendships survive under pressure. Tell us about a time when a friendship was put to the test. Did it strengthen your relationship or push it over the edge'	

Additional Topics suggested in 2016/2017 (in no particular order) –topics to write about if a regular topic results in writer’s block, despite all your efforts; or if you just feel like writing.

1	‘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.	
2	‘If only I’d...’	No brief... just let yourself go!	
3	‘I used to back in the day.’	No brief... just let yourself go and share your memories with us!	
4	‘My Brilliant Career’	Miles Franklin’s first book title... now it’s time for you to reflect on this topic.	
5	‘My Career Went Bung’	Miles Franklin’s follow up title to ‘My Brilliant Career’... most of us can relate to this... it’s your turn...	
6	‘Car Stories’	‘So many formative moments happen in cars – tell us about a memorable experience you had in yours. It could be your first taste of P-plate freedom, a revealing in-transit conversation, or how an accident, a flat tyre, or parking ticket set off a chain of events in your day... or?’	<hr/>
7	U-Turn	A single decision can turn your day - or life - around. Share how a sudden change of direction altered what happened next.	