

Grassroots Writers Weekend Program

Friday 1st April

2.30 – 3.30 pm	Registration
3.30 pm – 5.00 pm	WORKSHOP 1 - Choose one
	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>Workshop: How Do You Start? Presenter: Roby Aiken</p> <p>A practical workshop for beginners. Discussing genre, character, the shape of a story and more, with some practical exercises to get your imagination moving.</p> <p>BIO: Roby Aiken has been a member of Nambucca Valley Writers Group for seventeen years. She writes some very short stories and some very long ones, and enjoys playing with her characters; giving them life; making them sing; sometimes gleefully making them die horrible deaths.</p>
	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Workshop: Cut & Paste – Collage Poetry Presenter: Diane Curran</p> <p>Construct poetry from cut-out words. Words huddle together in unexpected groups triggering new association and images. Relaxing, inspiring and challenging.</p> <p>BIO: Diane is a writer of fiction with attitude and particularly enjoys twisting fairy tales. She is also a collage poet, cutting out words from magazines and reassembling them into poems. Diane was on the executive committee of Romance Writers of Australia from 2009 -2015. She has been an unwavering member of NVWG for 15 years, currently president of the group.</p>
	<p><u>Option 3</u></p> <p>Workshop: Grab That Reader Presenter: Michael Burlace</p> <p>Hook and hold your reader all the way from page one to the next book. This is a sound approach for people who want their books read, not just looked at. Particularly, it fits people who want to be published. Bring a page or more of your writing to polish - ideally the first page they see because that is the best place to cast a spell on them.</p>

	<p>Bio: Michael Burlace lives in Coffs Harbour. He works as a newspaper sub-editor and runs workshops for writers and self publishers. He is writing a novel about an interesting, independent and smart woman who meets her match and can't have him. Or maybe she can. Ain't chemistry grand?</p>
5.30 pm	<p>Keynote Address: Believe in Yourself - Fiona McArthur</p> <p>Fiona loves to share her passion about writing with beginners, those loving the muse, and those losing the joy in their writing. Always excited by new ideas and new ways to inspire herself and others, Fiona would love to kick the weekend off by sharing lightbulb moments, love of the game, and her belief in the writing community.</p>
6.00 pm	Official opening by Mayor Rhonda Hoban
6.30 – 9.00 pm	BBQ – Tickets \$25.

Saturday 2nd April

8.30 am	Doors open, tea and coffee available.
9.00 – 10.15 am	<p>Panel: Things I Wish I Knew when I Started</p> <p>Greg Barron, Leonie Henschke, Fiona McArthur</p> <p>Each participant will discuss their writing journey and the things they wish they knew when they started.</p>
10.15 – 10.45 am	Morning Tea
10.45 – 12.15 am	WORKSHOP 2 - Choose one
	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>Workshop: Assessing Writing Presenter: Lisa Milner</p> <p>Many writers give feedback on other people's writing. Learning how to provide, and receive, writing assessment can be a huge incentive for this task. Bring along one page of your writing for another person to assess.</p> <p>BIO: Lisa Milner is a writer, academic and filmmaker, and has been a member of the Nambucca Valley Writers Group for many years. She loves working with other writers to improve skills in a number of areas.</p>

	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Workshop: Desk-Top Publishing Basics Presenter: Ion Newcombe</p> <p>Desktop Publishing (DTP) Basics is aimed at writers who'd like to know more about how to self-publish their work professionally — either on paper or as e-books — using a computer. It is an easy introduction to the conventions of desktop publishing that demystifies page layout, reading psychology, typography, spacing, margins, graphics, book formats, printing, binding, print on demand services, and publishing terminology. This course also highlights a number of useful online and offline resources for self-publishers.</p> <p>BIO: Ion Newcombe is the editor of <i>AntipodeanSF</i>, Australia's longest running online speculative fiction magazine, and runs his own publishing business, <i>Wordright Editorial</i>. He has a B.A. in Communications from USQ, a Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Writing from Deakin Uni, and many years of experience teaching basic IT skills at local community colleges.</p>
	<p><u>Option 3</u></p> <p>Conversation: Travel Writing Presenter: Leonie Henschke</p> <p>Everybody likes to travel - to get away from day to day routines - whether it is to exotic locations or to a b&b up in the hills. In every one of those settings there is a story. It is up to the writer to capture the sights, smells, sounds, and, most particularly, personal stories to make that special place come alive for the reader. In this relaxed session, journalist and writer (and adventure traveller), Leonie Henschke, facilitates group conversation to share, inspire, amuse and challenge other travel junkie writers! Bring along your memories!</p> <p>BIO: Leonie Henschke is a freelance journalist and writer with a background in newspapers and magazines and book publishing in Australia and Great Britain as Managing Editor of Angus and Robertson Publishers. Most recently she was Managing Director of the University of New England's international corporate training arm, UNE Partnerships in Armidale. Now living on the beautiful north coast at Sawtell she continues to write and teach writing and publishing and has become very involved in community cultural activities through her love of books, art, film and any artistic expression. When not writing herself she undertakes workshops for writers, manuscript assessments and guidance for writers on publishing options. Her favourite journalism is still human interest and personal profile stories and she likes to delve deeply into character and motives in her own writing.</p>
12.15 – 1.30	<p>Bring your own or eat locally</p> <p>BOOK LAUNCH: Fiona McArthur – Aussie Midwives</p>

	<p>Conversation: The Writing Life Facilitator: Carrolline Rhodes</p> <p>Group conversation about different writing methods and different genres, tools, rituals, processes. Sharing what works and what doesn't, discovering voice, becoming intimate with the reader. Meeting the guides, the journey from first draft to final submission.</p> <p>BIO: Carrolline is a multi-award winning writer across a range of genres and has just been commissioned to write her seventh history. An inspiring teacher she says her greatest accomplishment is empowering other writers.</p>
6pm	Canapes in courtyard for dinner attendees
6.30pm to 10 pm	<p>Writing Slam Dinner Entertainment, quiz, fiction and poetry.</p> <p>Bring your own writing to read, maximum 800 words fiction, non-fiction/flash fiction/poetry</p>

Sunday 3rd April

8.30 am	Doors open, tea and coffee available.
9.00 – 10.30 am	<p>Workshop 5 – choose one</p> <p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>Workshop: You Can Do It! Presenter: Fiona McArthur</p> <p>Drawing from what she's learnt from listening to Susan Mallory in her workshop 'Screw The Muse' and Stephen Pressfields 'The War of Art ' Winning the Inner Creative Battle and other motivational speakers – including 'How to write a book in 30 minutes!' Leave this workshop with tools to keep you going until you get to the end of that first or fifteenth book. And then how to get it out there.</p> <p>Requirements: Outline of the book you want to write</p> <p>BIO:</p> <p>Fiona McArthur has been published in many genres including Medical Romance where she's sold more than 2 million books world wide, articles in newspapers and magazines, Single Title Women's Fiction with Penguin Random House – the most recent THE HOMESTEAD GIRLS, climbed to number 4 and stayed on Australia's bestseller list for 6 weeks, while her RED SAND SUNRISE sold over 11k books in Australia since July 2014. HOMESTEAD SKIES comes out in July 2016.</p>

	<p>Her most recent release - AUSSIE MIDWIVES – a Non Fiction Anthology of Australian Midwives from the city to the sea to outback Australia – will be published by PenguinRandomHouse in April 2016.</p>
	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Workshop: Creating Snapshots of the Past and Present Presenters: Leonie Henschke & Kim Hodges</p> <p>Writing a life-long memoir of yourself or someone of interest is a big challenge. A huge hunk of time. However, if you pick out little snippets, perhaps based on photographs or mementoes, you can zero in on intimate, life-changing and, perhaps, very entertaining moments. And afterwards you can always connect the vignettes as a life story. Come along with three personal items relevant to your story and we'll create some memorable pieces, sharing, inspiring, and improving from working together as a group. You'll learn techniques for creating atmosphere, a recognisable flavour of the period, setting and language, and structure to engage the reader.</p> <p>BIO – Leonie Henschke Leonie Henschke is a freelance journalist and writer with a background in newspapers and magazines and book publishing in Australia and Great Britain as Managing Editor of Angus and Robertson Publishers. Most recently she was Managing Director of the University of New England's international corporate training arm, UNE Partnerships in Armidale. Now living on the beautiful north coast at Sawtell she continues to write and teach writing and publishing and has become very involved in community cultural activities through her love of books, art, film and any artistic expression. When not writing herself she undertakes workshops for writers, manuscript assessments and guidance for writers on publishing options. Her favourite journalism is still human interest and personal profile stories and she likes to delve deeply into character and motives in her own writing.</p> <p>BIO – Kim Hodges Kim Hodges resides on the North Coast of NSW, her birthplace, returning after growing up in Coolah, Central West NSW, then living in Sydney and abroad.</p> <p>"Girl on the Edge: An Arresting Memoir" is her first book, published in 2016. Her adolescent experiences niggled away in the back of her mind from twenty years of age and worked their way into words. Kim has a Master Degree in Policy from the University of Wollongong and undergraduate degree in Sociology from UTS. She has worked previously in the outer suburbs of Sydney at a local level using social action approaches and then in policy for government on health, gender and housing issues. Academia followed within the School of Arts and Social Sciences as a casual and contract Tutor/Lecturer for SCU. This memoir is written through a sensitive adolescent lens and reflections as an adult. It explores identity, belonging, and alienation, and also</p>

	<p>class, gender and power. It is set within a small town context, a local school and family. Humor to offset the confronting content.</p> <p>She is the mother of three teenage lads.</p>
	<p><u>Option 3</u></p> <p>Workshop: Fantastic Magic Presenter: Roby Aiken</p> <p>Find out how to fill your world with magic, from creatures to spells and beyond. Expand your imagination and embrace all things magical. Practical tips and exercises for any world.</p> <p>BIO: Roby Aiken has been a member of Nambucca Valley Writers Group for seventeen years. She writes some very short stories and some very long ones, and enjoys playing with her characters; giving them life; making them sing; sometimes gleefully making them die horrible deaths.</p>
10.30 – 11.00 am	Morning Tea (provided)
11.00 – 12.30 pm	Workshop 6 – Choose one
	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>Workshop: Learning Writing from Reading Presenter: Annette Marfording</p> <p>Important aspects of good writing include beginnings, voice, 5 senses, metaphor, original and vivid detail and more. In this workshop Annette Marfording will point to and discuss some great examples in literature that achieve these elements brilliantly.</p> <p>BIO: Creator and broadcaster of program on Australian authors and their work at 2bbb FM; Program Director, Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival – 2015; author of <i>Celebrating Australian Writing: Conversations with Australian Authors</i></p>
	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Workshop: Invigorate Your Muse Presenter: Wendy Laharnar</p> <p>This is a fun session to stimulate your muse by devious means to make her work for you. At the end, you'll know the joy of saying, 'Where did this come from?' and 'Did I write that?' Beginning with a blank page and blank mind, we'll trick, prompt, question and cajole your muse into releasing ideas and hidden gems which surprise and delight you. Then we'll create order from chaos, revealing the bones of the story or poem your muse delivered.</p>

