

## **Grassroots Writers Weekend Program**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

2.30 – 3.30 pm	<b>Registration</b>
3.30 pm – 5.00 pm	<b>WORKSHOP 1 - Choose one</b>
	<u>Option 1</u>  <b>Workshop:</b> <b>How Do You Start?</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Presenter: Roby Aiken</b></span>  A practical workshop for beginners. Discussing genre, character, the shape of a story and more, with some practical exercises to get your imagination moving.  <b>BIO:</b> 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.
	<u>Option 2</u>  <b>Workshop:</b> <b>Cut &amp; Paste – Collage Poetry</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Presenter: Diane Curran</b></span>  Construct poetry from cut-out words. Words huddle together in unexpected groups triggering new association and images. Relaxing, inspiring and challenging.  <b>BIO:</b> 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.
	<u>Option 3</u>  <b>Workshop:</b> <b>Grab That Reader</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Presenter: Michael Burlace</b></span>  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><b>Bio:</b> 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><b>Keynote Address: Believe in Yourself - Fiona McArthur</b></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	<b>Official opening by Mayor Rhonda Hoban</b>
6.30 – 9.00 pm	<b>BBQ – Tickets \$25.</b>

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

8.30 am	Doors open, tea and coffee available.
9.00 – 10.15 am	<p><b>Panel: Things I Wish I Knew when I Started</b></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	<b>Morning Tea</b>
10.45 – 12.15 am	<b>WORKSHOP 2 - Choose one</b>
	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p><b>Workshop: Assessing Writing</b></p> <p>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><b>BIO:</b></p> <p>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><b>Workshop:</b> <b>Desk-Top Publishing Basics</b></p> <p>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><b>BIO:</b> 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><b>Conversation: Travel Writing</b></p> <p>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&amp;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><b>BIO:</b> 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><b>BOOK LAUNCH: Fiona McArthur – Aussie Midwives</b></p>

1.30 – 3.00 pm	<b>Workshop 3 – Choose one</b>
	<u>Option 1</u> <p><b>Workshop:</b>  <b>Establishing the World of Your Writing</b>                      Presenter: Rosalie Skinner</p> <p>In this workshop we will explore how to create a world our readers can navigate and understand. Even though we may create an imaginary world an author needs to know how and why the world's elements exist. We will discuss different aspects of world building that any author can use to ensure their world is well rounded. From culture to geology, climate to garments, an author has a duty to share as much data as possible with their readers. Our workshop will cover how to achieve this without overwhelming our readers.</p> <p><b>BIO:</b></p> <p>Rosalie Skinner is a local Coffs Harbour grassroots writer and author of the eight book sci fi fantasy series the 'Chronicles of Caleath'. Rosalie is active in The Coffs Harbour Writers' group where she enjoys sharing all aspects of writing with other authors. She has given numerous workshops, including being a presenter at the inaugural Grassroots Writers Gathering in Dorrigo. Her books continue to enthrall readers locally and around the globe.</p>
	<u>Option 2</u> <p><b>Workshop: Show Don't Tell: Developing Your Writer's Style</b>  Presenter: Margaret Penhall-Jones</p> <p>Develop an understanding of the key writing technique "show don't tell" so that aspiring writers are able to assess their own work for "showing" rather than "telling".</p> <p><b>BIO:</b></p> <p>I am a local writer, member of the Coffs Harbour Writers Group, Romance Writers of Australia and Romance Writers of America. I am also a contest judge for Romance Writers of Australia. I am thrilled that USA-based Entangled publishing is interested in one of my romance manuscripts. I have developed and co-ordinate an online romance writing course. A free promotional video is available at <a href="http://openlearning.com.au">openlearning.com.au</a> I am currently running a writing-craft workshop on Memoir Writing.</p>
	<u>Option 3</u> <p><b>Conversation:</b>  <b>Let's Talk about Sex (Scenes), Baby.</b>                      Facilitator: Diane Curran</p> <p><i>Was it good for you?</i> When we ask this question of sex scenes, the answer can vary depending on whether the author's intention is to shock, titillate or move the reader, along with the expectations of the reader. Leave your inhibitions at</p>

	<p>the door as we discuss the ins and outs of sex on the page.</p> <p><b>BIO:</b> 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>
3.00 – 3.30 pm	<b>Afternoon Tea (provided)</b>
3.30 – 5.00 pm	<p><b>Workshop 4 – Choose 1</b></p> <p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p><b>Workshop: Playing with Words</b>      Presenter: Iris Curteis</p> <p>This session is about building your creative muscle, playing with words, letting go and being daring! Together we will build courage so that you can perform your writings in front of an audience – rather than just read them. We will look at different ‘styles’ and how they can work for you and your chosen piece. We will also create a piece of collaborative writing and perform this during the weekend. Be prepared to embarrass yourselves and have a lot of fun doing it.</p> <p>Bring 2 pieces of work you’d like to work on plus 2 copies for collaborators</p> <p><b>BIO:</b> I’m an oral storyteller, writer, mentor and academic. I love the power of language in all its forms. People and community are my other passion. I combined the above in my Ph.D., which focused on the power of storytelling to enable social change.</p>
	<p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p><b>Workshop:</b> <b>Tighter and Sharper – Writing like a Professional</b>      Presenter: Greg Barron</p> <p>Knock out useless words, eliminate adverbs, tighten your prose until it shines. Learn to use vivid detail and sensory description to immerse the reader in your work. Requirement: 1 page of writing, double spaced, size 14 font</p> <p><b>Bio:</b> Originally born in Dorrigo, I lived in many parts of Australia and overseas before returning to the Mid-north Coast. I have qualifications in Education and Aquatic Science, and had a variety of jobs before I settled down to write seriously. I have had three novels published by HarperCollins and am almost finished the next title, while also working as a librarian and music teacher.</p>
	<u>Option 3</u>

	<p><b>Conversation: The Writing Life</b></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><b>BIO:</b></p> <p>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>	Facilitator: Carrolline Rhodes
6pm	<b>Canapes in courtyard for dinner attendees</b>	
6.30pm to 10 pm	<p><b>Writing Slam Dinner</b></p> <p>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

	<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><b>Workshop:</b>  <b>Creating Snapshots of the Past and Present</b>  Presenters: Leonie Henschke &amp; 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><b>BIO – Leonie Henschke</b>  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><b>BIO – Kim Hodges</b>  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.    “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>



Program updated 24/03/16

All sessions are subject to availability of the presenters and Nambucca Valley Writers Group reserves the right to substitute sessions and presenters as required.