

## Grassroots Writers Weekend Program

27, 28 and 29 March 2020

Venue - Upstairs, Port Macquarie Panthers, 1 Bay Street Port Macquarie

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Details</i>		
<b>FRIDAY 27 March</b>	2.30 – 3.30	<b>Registration</b>			
	3.30 – 5.00	<b>Workshops</b>	1	2	3
			<p><b>Journey Into the Unknown</b> <b>Yvonne Kachel</b></p> <p>Participants can expect an interactive workshop, with outcomes of an idea catalogue on how to take journeys from what they are - the basis of adventure and insight for authors.</p>	<p><b>Get Out of Your Own Way and Write</b> <b>Melanie Wass</b></p> <p>The biggest obstacle to starting or finishing your writing is you. By the end of this session you'll be much clearer on what hampers you and how you can develop strategies to improve your writing practice, your craft and your output. Lively discussion with active problem solving will see you leave with a plan to be much more productive, happier writer.</p>	<p><b>Marketing As An 'Author Published' Author</b> <b>Tamara McWilliam</b></p> <p>Based on her own experience and knowledge, Tamara will demonstrate the advantages to being self-published. Cover details like managing statistics, watching market trends and creating business plans. We will also look at social media marketing, how to market yourself as an author as well as your books and finding your reader target market.</p>
	5.15 – 5.35	<b>Welcome and Keynote Address</b>			
	5.35 – 6.00	<b>Official Opening</b>			
6.30 – 9.00PM	<b>Optional Dinner (Pre Book)</b>	Enjoy a meal with our Keynote Speaker and other writers at a local café overlooking the Hastings River (Vegan and GF options). Pre-booking required to reserve sufficient seats. Pay on night.			

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<b>SATURDAY 28 March</b>	8.30 - 0900	<b>Doors open and registration</b>			
	9.00 – 10.15	<b>Panel</b>	<p><b>On the Publishing Spectrum</b>  <b>Facilitator Michael Burlace</b>  <b>Panel - with Tamara McWilliam, Kim Hodges, Greg Barron, Desley Polmear</b></p> <p>From printing your collection of stories on your home printer to getting a million-dollar deal through a big-name publisher, there are many ways to be published. Join us as we facilitate this discussion and explore the journeys of published authors through self-publishing, vanity-publishing, traditional publishing and variants in between. Find the advantages and traps involved so you're better informed.</p>		
	10.15 – 10.45	<b>Morning Tea</b>			
	10.45 – 12.15	<b>Workshops</b>	4	5	6
			<p><b>A Sense of Place: Locations and Settings</b>  <b>Greg Barron</b></p> <p>Writers at all levels will get something out of this session on locations and settings. It will cover choosing the right setting for a story, description, research techniques, and bringing the location to life. It should lead to an improved understanding of just how important the setting is in fiction, and how to make yours stand out.</p>	<p><b>How to Write a Memoir – Yours or someone else's</b>  <b>Leonie Henschke</b></p> <p>A hands-on workshop to develop skills to scope, writes, edit and publish a memoir. Comprehensive notes and checklist will give you practical tools to take away. We can cope with all levels from those who have a memoir fully scoped to those just starting with a nugget of an idea. Having lived a life or observed or researched someone else's will be enough!</p>	<p><b>The Elements of a Fantasy World</b>  <b>Wendy Haynes</b></p> <p>Explores the elements when building a fantasy world. Participants will have the beginning skeleton of a fantasy world at the end of the session.</p>

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				<p>Select parts or themes in a life to chronicle while exploring human emotions and growth. You will be reflecting.</p> <p>Learn how to plan a memoir, get started, develop writing skills, and sustain good writing practice. Develop a fully drafted plan for the memoir by the end of the workshop. Guaranteed!</p>	
12.15 – 1.30	<b>Lunch Break</b>				
1.30 – 3.00	<b>Workshops</b>	7	8	9	
		<p><b>The Road To Being Published By A Publishing House</b></p> <p><b>Kim Hodges</b></p> <p>In this session, Kim will provide first-hand experience while outlining the six publishing houses as well as exploring the independent publishers. In doing so you will find out about their submission criteria and be able to write a synopsis for submission of your work. An active workshop which will enable the group to give feedback on your draft</p>	<p><b>Creating Compelling Characters</b></p> <p><b>Melanie Wass</b></p> <p>A reader can't engage with paper-thin parodies of characters. Readers want compelling characters with all the crazy quirks that we real people have. Move beyond shallow character profiles. Find out about the 7 key patterns of character development to bring your characters living and breathing on the page. Compelling characters not only add depth to your story</p>	<p><b>A Simple Guide to Writing a Great Play – PART ONE</b></p> <p><b>Brenda Davies</b></p> <p>A two-part interactive workshop. Attend both parts as they are different. Brenda will present a quick and practical guide for beginner playwrights wanting to write a short play. We'll look at structure, content and how to find a great starting point. Lots of exercises and handouts to take away.</p>	

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			submission.	and engage readers more - they give you tons of story ideas in themselves. Tip: Great characters move your plot forward more easily.	
3.00 – 3.30	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>				
3.30 – 5.00	<b>Workshops</b>	10		11	12
		<p><b>Editing: The Serious Writers Best Friend</b>  <b>Rita Spencer</b>                      Discover what book editors do and why even the most respected and best-selling authors still work with one. Be confident before you self-publish or seek out a publisher - ensure your work reaches its full potential by clarifying what type of editorial assistance would work best for you.</p>	<p><b>Writing Through the Senses</b>  <b>Terese Hope</b>                      Three short activities using tactile, aural and visual stimulus, participants will create a word bank and two pieces of writing which can be used for a short story, a poem or flash fiction. This session will be useful to both beginner and experienced writers.</p>	<p><b>Your Blogging Platform</b>  <b>Lorraine Penn</b>                      Differences between various blog sites that are available and test out submitting stories on relevant writers sites. Outcomes: to be able to choose which site best suits their requirements.</p>	
5.15PM	<b>Drinks (optional)</b>	Wrap up the day with an informal meetup at the Bar - buy a drink and chat, for those not dining.			
6.00 – 10PM	<b>Dinner (Pre Book)</b>	<b>Official Opening, Book Launch and Raffle Prizes</b>			

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<b>SUNDAY 29 March</b>	8.30 am	<b>Doors open</b>			
	9.00 – 10.30	<b>Workshops</b>	13	14	15
			<p><b>Ideas for your Novel &amp; Rules of Writing</b> <b>Desley Polmear</b></p> <p>Open discussions with the beginning or seasoned group about story ideas. Where do we find them? What are the fiction writing rules? Participants will leave with handouts and a short story.</p>	<p><b>Creating with MS WORD</b> <b>Allan Pogonowski</b></p> <p>The session will cover using MS Word as a word processor, not a typewriter. This includes setting up fonts, paragraphs, page layouts, headings, Table of Contents etc. Each participant must have a working copy of Word already installed on their laptop or tablet as this is a workshop session. Preferred application version is 2003 or later.</p>	<p><b>Freeing Your Creativity</b> <b>Hayley Lawrence</b></p> <p>This interactive workshop with activities to unlock the free play part of your brain. Group activities and individual story-building exercises - learn how to tap into your creative flow, overcome writer's block or lack of ideas and most of all, have fun with the written word. Suitable for all abilities and ages, from new writers to seasoned writers.</p>
	10.30 – 11.00	<b>Morning Tea</b>			
	11.00 – 12.30	<b>Workshops / Panels</b>	16	17	18
		<p><b>11-12pm Poetic Pursuits</b> <b>Panel: Tom McIlveen, Bessie Jennings &amp; Barbara Westwood</b></p> <p>A Conversation Panel exploring the concepts, conventions and practice of poetry with three local poets facilitated by</p>	<p><b>Winning Short Stories</b> <b>Tom Penrose</b></p> <p>The workshop aims to prepare participants to develop short stories suitable for various short story competitions. An interactive workshop for novice writers. Includes discussion, activities and</p>	<p><b>A Simple Guide to Writing a Great Play - PART TWO</b> <b>Brenda Davies</b></p> <p>A two-part interactive workshop. Attend both parts as they are different. Brenda will present a quick and practical guide for beginner playwrights wanting to write a short play. We'll look at</p>	

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			<p>Lorraine Penn.</p> <p><b>12-12.30</b> <b>Writing The Facts</b></p> <p><b>Frank Urban</b></p> <p>Using the book, “Gunboats to Gumtrees - an eccentric English writing family”, Frank will explore the challenges of writing factually.</p>	handouts.	<p>structure, content and how to find a great starting point. Lots of exercises and handouts to take away.</p>
	12.30 - 1.30	<b>Lunch Break</b>			
	1.30 – 3pm	<b>Workshops</b>	19	20	21
			<p><b>Explode Your Book</b> <b>Michael Burlace</b></p> <p>This is for writers ready to see what makes their novel tick - or doesn't. You will need to at least skim Jill Chamberlain's Nutshell Technique (\$16 Amazon) to get a sense of her key elements. We'll work through those elements and you'll get a fresh view of your novel.</p>	<p><b>The Write Practice</b> <b>Wendy Haynes</b></p> <p>Workshop for those wishing to complete their MS. Explore regular writing practice and goals.</p>	<p><b>The Art of Writing Gripping Stories</b> <b>Hayley Lawrence</b></p> <p>Learn what it takes to write a book from initial idea through to completion. This workshop covers plotting, the three act structure, how to avoid 'the saggy middle' in a novel, and how to find a publisher once you've finished that masterpiece. Suitable for new and emerging writers.</p>
	3.30 – 4pm	<b>Tea, Coffee and What's Next???</b>	Plenary Discussion. Accolades and vexations. Celebrate the end of Grassroots Writers Weekend 2020. The host for 2021 Grassroots will be announced and the baton handed over.		
	4pm	<b>Close and Optional Drinks</b> in the Tapp Bar ( <i>at own expense</i> ) to have a final catch up with writerly types			

❧ THANK YOU FOR BEING AN INTEGRAL PART OF GRASSROOTS 2020 ❧