



THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN WRITERS WA
Wednesday Writing Classes in the City
CITIPLACE, UPSTAIRS SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM

February 2023

Topic 1: Writing a Childhood Memoir

Format: Interview with Loretta Tolnai

Interviewer: Asha Rajan

Date: 1 February

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

This session is an interview between Asha Rajan and Loretta Tolnai on Loretta's experience in writing her childhood memoir, *Relative Strangers*. The session will include the research process, record keeping, what she included, what she needed to consider in writing about her family. There will be time for you to ask questions.

11.30am – 12midday

Socialising and mingling opportunity

Topic 2: Basic Psychology for Writing Characters

Format: Interview with Shirley Eldridge

Interviewer: Asha Rajan

Date: 8 February

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

This session is an interview between Asha Rajan and Shirley Eldridge. The topic of conversation will cover researching her 2016 book, *Mima: A case of abduction, rape and murder*. Shirley will talk about the research process when dealing with these topics and the murder of a friend. How do you deal with these traumatic events and be the objective researcher, while being mindful of self-care? There will be time for you to ask questions.

11.30am – 12midday

Socialising and mingling opportunity

Topic 3: Writing Towards Publication: Introduction to building an online writer submissions profile

Format: Short Workshop

Tutor: Asha Rajan

Session One: 15 February

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

Things a writer needs to be across to get their short work published:

- *Writing to the publisher, what to include, how to approach submissions,
- * Discover the world of publications and publishing opportunities including: Submittable, duo-trope, chill-subs – all submission managers.
- *What publishers will and won't publish!

Requirements: Laptop and internet access/Wi-Fi

Takeaways from this workshop: A Submittable profile

Session Two: 22 February

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

This session will encourage participants to complete their Submittable profile.

March 2023

Topic 4: Introduction to Poetry & Ekphrasis

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Aileen Boyer

Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

Poetry is a way to understand and feel our world. It can be a beacon in the dark and a guide in life. This short course will help you understand the importance of poetry in your own world and introduce you to some simple forms to express your own feelings. Starting from the beginning, because poetry has been around since then, we will take a closer look at form and function in a fun way that will have you writing your own poetry with confidence. Suitable for beginners and those wanting to get creative through personal expression, this step- by- step course will guide you through the process of poetry making.

Topic 5: Shut up and Write

Format: Timed writing sprints

Hostess: Asha Rajan

Date: 29 March

Times: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Including 2 breaks of 15 minutes and writing prompts for those who need it.

This is an opportunity to write in uninterrupted blocks using the Pomodoro Technique.

Prompts will be provided for those who need them or feel free to bring a current work in progress (short story, series of poems, whatever you're working on at the moment) and write.

Bring device/laptop if that's what you use or whatever you'd like to write on.

Takeaways: Lots of writing and potential stories to pursue.

April 2023

Topic 6: Grief Writing

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Asha Rajan

Dates: April 5, 12, 19, 26

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

This series of workshops will explore the key elements of grief writing, facilitated by Asha Rajan. Learn how to write a short story or poem on the topic of grief and edit it in preparation for submission to the 2023 Grieve Anthology through the Hunter Writers Centre. Asha's piece, 'My Father's Hands', was published in the 2021 Grieve Anthology).

You can work towards a short story or poem or series of poems or creative nonfiction piece or pieces for submission.

Takeaways: A submission for the Grieve Writing Competition 2023.

May 2023

Topic 7: Write Your Novel

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Helen Iles

Dates: May 3, 10, 17, 24

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

This novel-writing course will take you step by step through the process of planning and writing your first novel or kick-starting a stalled one. Learn techniques to grow your ideas and create the complications of plot publishers require through proven methods of story creation. Develop unique characters and throw them into dilemmas that create suspense through pacing and impactful writing that will keep the reader turning pages. Then we look at first draft editing and manuscript presentation.

Topic 8: Marketing your Book

Format: One off Workshop

Tutor: Helen Iles

Date: 31 May

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

The success of any book is in direct relation to its promotional campaign. If you have a book that should be in the public eye, this three-hour session is for you.

Topics covered: Pre-launch promotions, the Book Launch, getting a following; Keeping your book in the public's eye; social media; book trailers; author talks, printed material. For books yet to be released and for books whose sales have stalled.

June 2023

Topic 9: Memoir and writing from life (Nonfiction)

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Helen Iles

Dates: June 7, 14, 21, 28

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

Life writing encompasses writing true accounts in ways to engage and hold a reader's interest. Memoirs, biographies, anecdotes, essays, instructional texts, and true crime fall into this category. Research, writing style and using different voices or perspectives to capture the reader are just some aspects that will be covered.

July 2023

Topic 10: Crime Writing

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Helen Iles

Dates: July 5, 12, 19, 26

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

Turn your criminal mind loose in this course where you will learn to create a suspenseful story that readers can't put down. We will cover the core elements of crime writing, memorable sleuths, cunning villains, crime types, planting clues and how to devise an unforgettable ending.

August 2023

Topic 11: Editing

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Helen Iles

Dates: August 2, 9, 16, 23

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

Anyone can tell a story, but can you write it with pizzazz? Can you catch and hold the reader and leave them remembering your superb metaphors? Can you write economically and put punch in your scenes? In these sessions, we will cover the basic rules of grammar, and dissect your writing to make it gleam with perfection and develop different writing styles.

Topic 12: Writing Historical Fiction

Format: One off Workshop

Tutor: Lyn Bodycoat

Date: 30 August

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

Topics covered:

- *How to utilize your photos
- *How to get started on your writing
- *How to structure and pace your writing
- *How to make your writing interesting for your reader. Lyn will use her three published texts to show you examples of the dot-points above.

September 2023

Topic 13: Very Short Stories

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Asha Rajan

Dates: September 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: 9.30am – 12 midday

Can you convey a whole story in a tight word count? People often think flash and micro fiction are easy to write because they're short, but the short word count means you have to choose your words carefully. In this course we'll look at various very short stories and the difference between flash and micro fiction. We'll explore what makes these tiny stories successful or not, and how you can adopt successful techniques to write a complete story within the constraints of the word count.

will show you how to write *quality* erotic fiction that will stand out from the rest. The workshop covers pitfalls and common mistakes; good and bad examples of erotic writing; and sexy writing exercises.

Topic 17: Create a Vivid Sense of Place in Your Writing

Format: One off Workshop

Tutor: Maria Bonar

Date: 25 October

Times: 9.30am – 12midday

A vivid sense of place enhances the mood, atmosphere and context of your writing and brings the world of your story alive for the reader. It anchors your writing and can provide authenticity. Presented by Maria Bonar.

October 2023

Topic 14: Interview with TBA

Format: Interview

Interviewer: Asha Rajan

Date: 4 October

Time: 9.30am – 12midday

Topic 15: Shut up and Write

Format: Timed writing sprints

Hostess: Asha Rajan

Date: 11 October

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Including 2 breaks of 15 minutes and writing prompts for those who need it.

This is an opportunity to write in uninterrupted blocks using the Pomodoro Technique.

Prompts will be provided for those who need them or feel free to bring a current work in progress (short story, series of poems, whatever you're working on at the moment) and write.

Bring device/laptop if that's what you use or whatever you'd like to write on.

Takeaways: Lots of writing and potential stories to pursue.

Topic 16: Erotic Fiction for Women

Format: One off Workshop

Tutor: Maria Bonar

Date: 18 October

Times: 9.30am – 12midday

Erotic novels have gone from being discreetly hidden in the far corner of the bookshop, to taking centre stage. There has been an explosion of erotic fiction as print novels, eBooks, on blog sites and fan fiction sites. In this lively and entertaining workshop, Maria Bonar

November 2023

Topic 18: Writing for Children

Format: Workshops

Tutor: Helen Iles

Dates: November 1, 8, 15, 22

Time: 9.30am – 12midday

Writing for Children will cover children's picture books for littlies and young readers, and also encompass writing for the pre-teen. Sessions cover language, format, illustrating your work and avenues of publication. How to produce a picture book when you can't draw!

Committee Meeting Wind up & Review

Date: 29 November

December 2023

Holiday break. Classes will resume in 2024