

Mid North Coast Writer's Centre Program February – June 2021



'The 2nd Saturday Workshops is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.'

2nd Saturday Workshops

Our monthly workshops provide an opportunity for writers in the region to learn and build on the skill of storytelling. Come along meet like-minded people and become part of our writing community. Workshops are offered via Zoom and in different locations on the Mid North Coast.

Sign up to our mailing list to find out about pop-up events and more...

<https://mailchi.mp/f10a8c4d8bb5/newsletter-sign-up>

13 February Stories Are About Change – Structure

Location Online via Zoom

Time 2 – 4 pm

Cost Members \$20 Non-members \$30

On Sale 1 January 2021

Tickets <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/a-workshop-on-story-structure-by-zena-shapter-tickets-131733778277>

We read to understand how others encounter change, so we can better handle changes in our own lives. Story structure can help ensure your writing reflects this and resonates with readers.

In this workshop you will:

- Discover how theme, conflict, and character can all benefit from a structural review
- Develop your own writing skills through hands-on exercises and discussion

- Examine your purpose in writing stories and develop your understanding of why writers write
- Create a story reflective of a specific idea and intention

Structure can help you plan, edit, and strengthen your writing. Come along to this workshop to discover how! This workshop is for writers at any stage of their writing journey.

Presenter – Zena Shapter

Author of 'Towards White' (IFWG 2017) and co-author of 'Into Tordon' (MidnightSun 2016), among others, Zena loves to conjure journeys into the beyond and unusual, sharing original stories and uncommon sights... Because life is magical.

She has won over a dozen national writing competitions, including a Ditmar Award, the Australasian Horror Writers' Association Prize, and the Glen Miles Short Story Prize.

Zena offered workshops, courses, and writing service at www.zenashapter.com

13 March Panel – The Self-publishing Journey

Time 10 – 11:30 am

Location Kempsey

Venue Kempsey RSL

Time 10 – 11:30 am

Cost \$15

On Sale 1 February 2021 (seats are limited book early)

Ticket <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/panel-the-self-publishing-journey-tickets-132617744243>

This panel event is for anyone wishing to self-publish. Hear from this panel of experts who have all journeyed successfully down the path of self-publishing. This panel will arm you with vital industry insight on the steps needed to successfully self-publish and market your book, have good sales, and build your readership.

Here is your opportunity to listen and ask questions on all things self-publishing.

Meet the Panellists – Fiona McArthur, Tamara Williams, Greg Barron, Ann Rolfe, Annie Seaton, and facilitated by Wendy Haynes.

Fiona McArthur – draws from her past life as a rural midwife, and shares her love of working with women, families, and health professionals in her books. In her compassionate, pacey fiction, her love of the Australian landscape meshes beautifully with warm, funny, multigenerational characters as she highlights challenges for rural and remote families, and the strength shared between women. Happy endings are a must. Fiona writes one book a year for Harlequin Mills and Boon, TULE Publishing USA, and Penguin Random House as well as launching six author-published books in e-book, print, and audio. She is the author of the non-fiction book *Aussie Midwives* and lives on a farm with her husband in northern New South Wales. She was awarded the NSW Excellence in Midwifery Award in 2015. Fiona won the NZ Koru Award for short romantic fiction 2019, and the Australian RUBY award for Contemporary Romance 2020.

Tamara William - Tamara's writing journey began in 2015. Stepping completely out of her comfort zone, Tamara started writing a fiction novel that had absolutely nothing to do with health, hair, or Tapas bars. It was then 'The Willow Tree Series' came to life. Within eighteen months the series of five novels were written and self-published.

Tamara has since gone on to write a novel 'Beneath the Snow of Gnojnik,' based on a true story that has been published through a publishing company in England and another three-book series called 'The Mosconi series'. Tamara has been fortunate enough to attend various author events from library talks, international author signings, and writers' festivals.

Greg Barron - Crime, terrorism, history, international politics, and the wide-open spaces of outback Australia are all passionate interests of author Greg Barron. He has lived in North America, New South Wales, and in and around Katherine, Northern Territory. He once crossed Arnhem Land on foot and has a passion for the Top End landscape.

His books, published by HarperCollins Australia and Stories of Oz Publishing, are gutsy page-turners that tell the truth about the world. *Rotten Gods* was long-listed for the prestigious Ned Kelly awards, and has been lauded as "one of the most sophisticated geopolitical thrillers ever written." *Savage Tide* was described by ABC Radio reviewer Rob Minshull as; "Both supremely intelligent and written at breathtaking pace."

Anne Rolfe - Ann Rolfe is the founder of Mentoring Works. The consultancy specializes in helping to plan and implement mentoring programs and training, and provides a comprehensive range of resources providing clear, practical guidance based on extensive experience and expertise. Ann Rolfe has over thirty years' experience in learning and development. She has spoken at national and international conferences in Australia, Canada, China, Singapore, The Philippines, and the USA. She runs regular webinars that are attended by participants all over the world. She runs regular webinars that are attended by participants all over the world. Australia's most published author on mentoring, Ann has over a dozen books published on mentoring.

Annie Seaton – Annie Seaton lives by the beach on the east coast of Australia, following her lifelong dream of writing. Her love of books, reading, and writing began even before she started school and discovered libraries. Her working career before her writing career which began in 2010, was in libraries and education.

Her first twenty books were published by digital publishers in the United States, and her dream to write Australian stories for Australian readers and see her books in bookstores was achieved in 2015. Becoming a bestselling author was an unexpected bonus! Annie's inspiration comes from the natural beauty of our Australian landscapes, and she is now published internationally in e-books, as well as print in Australia. Each winter Annie and her husband leave the beach to roam the remote areas of Australia for story ideas and research. 2021 will see the publication of her fiftieth book.

Book Sale – there will be an opportunity after the panel discussion to purchase signed books from your favourite authors.

10 April Unlock your writing dreams: find the keys to 'The End'

Location Bellingen

Venue Bellingen Golf Club

Time 10 – 1 pm

Cost Members \$50 Non-members \$60

On Sale 1 March 2021

Tickets <https://midnorthcoastwriterscentre.org/whats-on/>

This writing workshop with multi-published Australian authors Fiona McArthur and Jaye Ford is aimed at unlocking some of the techniques essential to writing and finishing a novel or writing project. The half-day class will cover where to start, getting past page one and chapter one. Tools for working through the plot holes and self-doubt of the middle. And planning ahead for your ending and polishing your work. Using the experience of more than 50 books and 30 years of writing between them, Fiona and Jaye will also discuss techniques for bringing your story and characters to life and tips for maintaining focus to reach your writing goals. Workshop Outcomes: Tools to start, continue, and complete your writing project. Finding your tribe on your writing journey. For beginners and any writer who needs motivation and inspiration.

Handouts: will be available.

Presenters – Fiona McArthur & Jaye Ford

Fiona McArthur – draws from her past life as a rural midwife, and shares her love of working with women, families, and health professionals in her books. In her compassionate, pacey fiction, her love of the Australian landscape meshes beautifully with warm, funny, multigenerational characters as she highlights challenges for rural and remote families, and

the strength shared between women. Happy endings are a must. Fiona writes one book a year for Harlequin Mills and Boon, TULE Publishing USA, and Penguin Random House as well as launching six author-published books in e-book, print, and audio. She is the author of the non-fiction book *Aussie Midwives* and lives on a farm with her husband in northern New South Wales. She was awarded the NSW Excellence in Midwifery Award in 2015. Fiona won the NZ Koru Award for short romantic fiction 2019, and the Australian RUBY award for Contemporary Romance 2020.

Jaye Ford – is an internationally-selling author of five suspense novels. Her first thriller, *Beyond Fear*, won two Davitt Awards for Australian women crime writers (Best Debut and Readers' Choice) and was the highest-selling debut crime novel in Australia in 2011. Writing as **Janette Paul**, she is the author of the bestselling romantic comedy *Just Breathe* (e-book only) and *Amber and Alice*. Jaye/Janette's novels have been translated into nine languages and all five of her crime novels have been recorded as audiobooks.

She is a regular speaker at libraries as a guest author, chairing panels, and interviewing writers. She has been a guest and conducted workshops at numerous writer's festivals and conferences, including Byron Bay Writers Festival, Newcastle Writers Festival, Sydney Writers Festival, and Romance Writers Conferences in Australia and New Zealand.

She is a former news and sports journalist who was the first woman to host a live national sports show on Australian TV and ran her own public relations consultancy before turning to fiction.

8 May The Art and Craft of Life Writing

In this workshop we will look at:

- How to get started in your life story
- How to access vivid memory
- How to bring your writing alive with lively detail
- Experiment with writing possibilities in a series of exercises
- Read and discuss extracts from autobiographies
- Explore the vast and exciting territory of memoir writing

Learning outcomes:

- Be able to access 'original' memory with precise techniques
- Create the texture of place and people on the page
- Know how to write vivid lively detail
- Be able to create the 'lived' feel of life on the page
- Begin the process of structuring the journey of a life
- Understand the possibilities of the genre
- Gain the confidence and courage to keep writing

- Understand life writing as a craft rather than an outpouring

Grab a copy of *Writing True Stories* to enrich the workshop experience.

<https://lifestories.com.au/>

Presenter – Patti Miller

Patti Miller: author of *The Last One Who Remembers*, (A&U) *Whatever The Gods Do*, (Random House) the award-winning *The Mind of a Thief*, *Ransacking Paris*, (UQP) *Child*, (A&U) and best-selling texts, *Writing Your Life*, *The Memoir Book* and *Writing True Stories* (originally A&U, now Routledge). Her latest, *'The Joy of High Places'*, (NewSouth) was published in 2019. Patti also publishes in national newspapers and journals and teaches memoir writing at universities, Faber Academy, Writers' Centres, and in Paris and London. She is Australia's most successful memoir teacher with more than 50 students commercially published.

Location Taree

Venue TBA

Time 10 – 4 pm

Cost Members \$150 Non-members \$170 (limit of 12)

On Sale 1 April 2021

Tickets <https://midnorthcoastwriterscentre.org/whats-on/>

12 June Finding the Story Inside your Draft

Location Coffs Harbour

Venue TBA

Time 11 – 1 pm

Cost Members \$30 Non-members \$40

On Sale 1 May 2021

Tickets <https://midnorthcoastwriterscentre.org/whats-on/>

Structural Editing: turning a first draft into a novel. When we write first drafts, we allow ourselves to ramble, and this is all part of the process of finding the story we're trying to write. The trick is to locate the central premise of the story, then create a second draft that brings it to the fore, while removing extraneous scenes and adding new ones. This is also the stage where we identify and strengthen themes inherent in the story. For intermediate and advanced writers.

The workshop attendees will:

- learn how to identify the premise inherent in their story
- Cut extraneous scenes/exposition
- Tighten their novel

Presenter – Greg Barron

Crime, terrorism, history, international politics, and the wide-open spaces of outback Australia are all passionate interests of author Greg Barron. He has lived in North America, New South Wales, and in and around Katherine, Northern Territory. He once crossed Arnhem Land on foot and has a passion for the Top End landscape.

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The 2nd Saturday workshops for July – December will be announced in May.

Stay Tuned...

Poetry Workshops & Poetry Slam/Dinner

Stay tuned to find out more about our poetry workshops offered in 2021. But in the meantime, save these dates:

Poetry Workshops – 22 May, 26 June, 24 July. Presenters, cost, time, and venue TBA.

Poetry Slam Event – 21 August.

October 2021 Birthday Celebration

We celebrate our first birthday in October and part of the celebration will see the launch of our annual Writing Competition. Other popup events, and more... will be offered during this month.

Writers Retreat 19 – 21 November 2021

Register your interest in this weekend-long event. On offer is 2 nights at the Francis Retreat at Bonny Hills in share cabin style accommodation (3 per cabin), several writing workshops across the weekend, the opportunity to write, explore and build your writing skills.

Register your interest at info@mncwriterscentre.org with the subject line **Register Writers Retreat 2021**.