

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

A writing workshop to bring stories out of hiding and onto the page

It's often said that everyone has a book in them. Maybe they do. Maybe you do. Or maybe you just want to write down a few of your memories for your kids and grandkids. Whichever applies to you, this workshop is designed to get your ideas out of your head and onto paper.

In a fun and supportive environment, Jill Griffiths will guide you through storytelling and writing techniques to get you started. Through the workshop, you will gain skills and confidence to put your words on the page. You will get tips on working through writers' block, gain familiarity with the craft and conventions of writing, and be inspired to tell the stories that only you can tell. All sessions are highly interactive, with time for writing and sharing your writing, but there is no pressure to read anything out if you choose not to.

Jill Griffiths has been a professional writer for over 25 years, during which time she has written numerous magazine articles and edited many, many reports and manuscripts. Drawing on her background in biology and journalism, Jill often works with scientists to find the story in their research, but she also writes about people, places and nature. She has recently completed a memoir – *A Few Acres: A memoir of land* – in which she explores her own and her family's connection to the south-west of Western Australia. Jill is now working towards getting this manuscript published while she pulls together ideas for her next book and continues to work as a freelancer.

Cost: \$385 (including GST) per person for a group of 10 – 12*.

Other payment options can be negotiated depending on the size of the group and the venue chosen.

*No deposit is required however the course and participant numbers must be confirmed at least one week before any scheduled date. Cancellation after this time may incur a \$600 fee.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Workshop content:

What's your story? runs over two days, with time built in for writing, sharing and reflecting. The times below are indicative only, and the timetable can be altered to accommodate the group. There is the option of running the course as weekly sessions over five weeks, but the two-day workshop format is recommended.

Day One

Session 1: 9.30 – 11.00am **Finding your voice**

Why do we write? How do we write? What do you want to write? Why do you want to write? In this session we delve into exercises to get you writing and help you begin to find your authentic voice.

Session 2: 11.30 - 12.45 **Tips, tricks and tools**

This session provides an insight into the mechanics of writing and the skills professionals use to get over the humps.

Session 3: 1.00 – 3.30pm **Rubbishy first drafts**

Learn the value and the power of the first draft.

After 3.30pm ... **Homework!**

(Not too much, and not compulsory, but highly recommended.)

Day Two

Session 4: 9.30 – 11.00am **Polish your prose**

What needs to happen to turn a draft into a finished piece? In this session we'll look at how to edit your own work and how to seek and provide feedback to others. We'll also have a quick (and surprisingly entertaining) look at common grammatical mistakes and how to avoid them.

Session 5: 11.15 – 12.45pm **The blank page**

Whenever we write, we face up to the blank page. Learn to look beyond the fear and into the possibility of telling your story.

12.45pm Finish. Option for shared lunch to end the workshop.