Supporting writers of all ages and abilities

## Workshop Summary for 2015

All workshops are 1.30-4.30 pm except where marked.

### Course Code

- **PEGGF1**
- **SFSSM1**
- **MBRWS1**
- **IPSMB1**
- **LPJRW1**
- **PWSMN1**
- **WFWE1**
- **EPWSM1**
- **GSWNW1**
- **MBERW1**
- **IULMW1**
- **WFYTE1**

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<th>Facilitator</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>Sun Feb 2nd</td>
<td>Centre Opens</td>
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<td>Sun Feb 8th</td>
<td>Poetry Editing Group – Tactful Group Feedback</td>
<td>Jackson PEGGF1</td>
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<td>Sat Mar 7th</td>
<td>Short Fiction: Stories Under 600 Words</td>
<td>Susan Midalia SFSSM1</td>
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<td>Sun Mar 15th</td>
<td>Memoirs/Biography: How to Research and Write the Research into the Work</td>
<td>Dr Maureen-Helen MBRWS1</td>
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<td>Sat Mar 28th</td>
<td>Introduction to Poetry</td>
<td>Shane McCauley IPSMB1</td>
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<td>Sat Apr 18th</td>
<td>Landscape Poetry</td>
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<td>Sat May 2nd</td>
<td>Promoting Your Writing Using Social Media</td>
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<td>Sun May 17th</td>
<td>Writing powerful poetry</td>
<td>Jackson WFWEE1</td>
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<td>Sat May 30th</td>
<td>Editing Your Poetry</td>
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<td>Sun Jun 28th</td>
<td>Getting Started as a Writer: Open to All New Writers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Jul 12th</td>
<td>Memoirs/Biography: Editing and Rewriting</td>
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<td>Sat Sep 5th</td>
<td>The Intelligent Skilful and Evocative Use of Language as the Basis of Memorable Writing</td>
<td>Susan Midalia IULMW1</td>
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<td>Mon Sep 14th</td>
<td>Workshop for Youth 12 – 18</td>
<td>Susan Midalia WFYTE1</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>Sat Oct 3rd</td>
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<td><strong>Screen Plays: “So You Want To Write a Screen Play?”</strong> Facilitator TBA</td>
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<td>Fri-Sun Oct 16-18th</td>
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<td><strong>A Three Day Writers’ Retreat</strong> with Susan Midalia</td>
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<td>Sun Nov 22nd</td>
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<td><strong>Memoirs/Biography: Writing Short Life Stories – 2000 Words</strong> with Dr Maureen-Helen</td>
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<td>Sat Nov 28th</td>
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<td><strong>Centre Closes for Christmas 2016</strong></td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Feb 6th</td>
<td><strong>Centre Re-opens for 2016</strong></td>
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Workshop Overviews

Promoting Your Writing Using Social Media - Angelino Schintu  PWSMN1
$38 Members  $48 Non-members
Following the success of his workshop in 2014, Angelino Schintu will run an introductory workshop to help you explore tools and strategies to promote your writing in the broader community. This is about sharing your work across a range of media and using various creative formats (social, audio, and visual) through which modern writers share and promote their work.

Poetry Editing Group – Tactful Group Feedback – Guest facilitator Jackson  PEGGF1
$20 Members  $30 Non-members
Poets, do you long for objective feedback? What works in your poems? What doesn’t? How can you make them better? Should you publish or perform them? Should you submit them to poetry competitions or contests? Are they likely to win? How good is your technique? How original are your ideas? Find out in a friendly, supportive, tactful group critiquing session with guest facilitator Jackson, a much-published poet and editor with training in mentoring and group facilitation. Please bring writing materials and several copies of two or three of your poems.

Short Fiction: Stories Under 600 Words - Susan Midalia  SFSSM1
$38 Members  $48 Non-members
Writing a short story of less than 600 words means giving readers a bracing shot of whisky instead of a mature bottle of wine. It means recreating the thrill of a first date instead of the dogged familiarity of a marriage. This three-hour workshop, focused on short writing exercises and self-editing, aims to help you create that sense of intensity and the unexpected in your writing. It will also demonstrate the value of subtlety, restraint and precision, and the importance of what is not said, of what can be suggested beyond those relatively few words on the page. All you need to bring is pen and paper, and a love of story and language.

Memoirs/Biography: How to Research and Write the Research into the Work Seamlessly  MBRWS1
- Dr Maureen-Helen
$38 Members  $48 Non-members
“Research in Life Writing: The skills of a bower bird: research for life writing”*

At the end of this three-hour session, participants will understand
• The need for sound research in writing memoir, autobiography and biography
• The importance of reading regularly and widely
• Tools for researching
• Some of the methods that can be used for note-keeping
• Skills for blending research seamlessly into their stories.

*(These skills are also useful for fictional writers who want to include historic/current factual events).


**Introduction to Poetry** - Shane McCauley  
IPSMB1  
$38 Members $48 Non-members  
This workshop caters for all who have been interested in writing poetry, but have yet to try, as well as those who have already begun the journey into the realm of poetry but want to find out more.

We will look at such matters as: poetry, verse and worse; the fundamentals of imagery, sound and form; poetic strengths and weaknesses (i.e. what can go wrong!); and particular types of poetry suitable for beginners (such as haiku and other short forms). Useful and entertaining practical writing exercises will be included. We will also look ahead to other practical matters such as submitting poems to journals and the many competitions currently available in Australia.

This workshop aims to be as wide-ranging as possible within the three-hour time frame. As indicated, it is firmly aimed at both “beginners” as well as those already afflicted by the poetry bug!

**Landscape Poetry** - John Ryan  
LPJRW1  
$38 Members $48 Non-members  
The Sssss of Landscape Poetry: Sense, Spirit, Science, Song, Story  
Ever wandered lonely as a cloud, like William Wordsworth? With glimpses of creeks and a vision of mosses, like Henry Kendall? With the cold clean pulse of the tide, the touch of sea in greeting, like Judith Wright? Finding the right words for the natural world is the art of landscape poetry. Infusing your writing with sense, spirit, science, song and story will put nature on the page. Come animate your verse by exploring the five sssss of landscape poetry in this interactive three-hour workshop. We’ll begin by reading, thinking about and discussing examples from Australian landscape poetry. We’ll then venture into the bushland surrounding Peter Cowan Writers’ Centre to exercise our senses and practice finding words for flora, fauna, fungi, sky, soil, stones.

John Ryan is a landscape poet and environmental philosopher. He is the author of the botanical poetry and illustration book Two With Nature (2012, Fremantle Press) and a number of other titles about the South-West Australian environment, including Green Sense (2012, TrueHeart Press).

**Writing powerful poetry** - Jackson  
WFWE1  
$38 Members $48 Non-members  
A student once asked me, ‘When I read a great poem, I feel something. Why?’ This workshop will focus on some of the answers to that question. Learn how to express emotions in your poems. See how great poets manipulate words to make magic and mystery. Find out how form creates feeling. We’ll read and discuss a selection of published poems, and get inspired to write our own. Whether you’re a curious beginner or already well-versed, you’re sure to have fun. Don’t forget your writing materials!
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**Editing Your Poetry** - Shane McCauley  EPWSM1
$38 Members    $48 Non-members

This workshop aims to encourage an objective critical attitude to the poems we write by considering building-blocks such as phrasing, structure, implication, observation and the element of surprise. It provides a useful supplementary session to the March Introduction to Poetry Workshop, as well as being helpful to anyone who wants to hone their poetry technique or consolidate their poetic voice.

The focus is firmly on practical matters - how to shape a poem, what to include and exclude, how to utilise imagery to best effect, how to incorporate sounds and rhythms in both traditional and free poetic forms. We will examine examples of the good and the not-so-good (and along the way meet a certain Mr William McDonagall). Participants are encouraged to bring a few copies of a poem for group discussion (depending on time available) though this is by no means compulsory. Although those attending should leave having gained more insight into their writing practice, we should also have enjoyed ourselves along the way!

**Getting Started as a Writer: Open to All New Writers** - Dr Maureen-Helen  GSWNW1
$38 Members    $48 Non-members

At the end of this three-hour session participants will have some of the basic skills used every day by successful writers. They will understand the importance for writers of

- Writing every day
- Developing a routine that enables them to write
- Reading every day – all genres are good
- Journal-keeping
- Note-keeping
- Regular exercise
- Playfulness (‘Play is the intelligence having fun’ – Einstein).
- Keeping drama on the page
- Ways to get around self-doubt and self-criticism
- Having several creative projects underway.

**Memoirs/Biography: Editing and Rewriting** - Dr Maureen-Helen  MBERW1
$38 Members    $48 Non-members

At the end of this three-hour session, participants will understand

- The importance of writing first draft freely without editing or censorship. (Hemingway’s advice to writers to ‘Write drunk, edit sober!’)
- The essential role of editing in producing a story
- The need for time and space between first draft and editing
- Skills for structural editing
- How to ask for feedback (who to ask, what you want from them, how to ‘hear’ feedback without being hurt, etc)
- How many drafts and rewrites are enough?
The Intelligent Skilful and Evocative Use of Language as the Basis of Memorable Writing

- Susan Midalia

$20 Members    $30 Non-members

A writer is someone in love with language: words that can unsettle us or move us to tears; that can amuse, enchant, enrage, nudge us into new ways of looking at the world. But whatever effects you’re aiming for, you should try to use language that’s intelligent – the product of careful thinking; skillful – handled with imaginative flair; evocative – words that suggests much more than the relatively few words on the page. Using short writing exercises and samples from memorable stories, this workshop encourages you to think beyond the obvious, to find ways of using words to captivate readers from your opening sentence.

Workshop for Youth 12 – 18 - Susan Midalia

WFYTE1

$10 Members    $15 Non-members

A creative writer is someone who loves words and who, by using his or her imagination, tries to think beyond the obvious and predictable. This workshop will encourage you to use your creativity by practising short exercises, both oral and written: for example, imagining yourself as a colour or a place; structuring a story through the use of different points of view; creating a character in three sentences; asking you to write the next sentence to a story that begins: “One day Jack woke up to find his socks walking out the door.” You will even be encouraged to break the rules: to write about something that’s physically impossible — like those walking socks for example; or to make up your own words. All you need to bring to the workshop is some writing equipment, your enthusiasm and a willingness to try something new.

Screen Plays: “So You Want To Write a Screen Play?” - TBA

SPWTW1

$38 Members    $48 Non-members

Further details to come
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A Three Day Writers’ Retreat - Susan Midalia  EPWSM1
$195 Members    $240 Non-members
This three-day retreat encourages you to:
 use your imagination
 think creatively
 understand what makes for a memorable story
 work with your writing strengths while avoiding your weaknesses
 enjoy both the stimulation of working with others and the time to reflect in solitude.

During the retreat, we will work in pairs, in small groups and in the group as a whole, practising short writing exercises, learning from the works of memorable writers and being attentive to the physical environment. Please bring writing that you’ve been working on, but don’t feel obliged to do so.

Day one:
► getting-to-know you exercises
► using language in creative ways/suggesting instead of stating your meanings
► constructing characters
► constructing a sense of place

Day two:
► point of view and voice
► how to structure a story
► getting started: writing that captivating opening sentence
► quiet writing time. During this part of the day, you will be given individual guidance and feedback from the coordinator of the retreat.

Day three:
Learning how to self-edit. You will be encouraged to read your work aloud (if only to yourself) in order to hear:
★ the rhythm - whether a sentence “sings” or goes “clunk”
★ inadvertent repetitions
★ clichés
★ mixed metaphors
★ the overall shape of a paragraph and the story as a whole: what needs to be cut out, and what needs to be developed or amplified.

The retreat aims to help you refine your writing skills, try something new and – fingers crossed – complete a draft as the basis for the best story you’ve ever written.
Memoirs/Biography: Writing Short Life Stories – 2000 Words - Dr Maureen-Helen

$38 Members    $48 Non-members

“Memoir writing made simple: writing a short memoir and getting results!”

At the end of this three-hour session, participants will feel confident about writing short stories from their own lives. They will understand

- The basics of memoir and biography
- The basics of a short story
- How to capture memories to write about
- How to shape an incident from real life into the form of a short memoir
- How to write a story
- Next steps
- Publications and competitions

Note: This is a basic level, fun workshop aimed at beginners. As part of the course Dr Maureen-Helen will read and comment on 2000 words from each participant. Personal read and comment is $25 for each piece of writing submitted within a month of session completion.
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**Biographies**

**Angelino Schintu** is a professional communications consultant with a passion for creative storytelling. He is broadly experienced in journalism, the performing arts and multimedia media production techniques.

**Jackson** won the 2014 Ethel Webb Bundell Poetry Award and won second prize in the 2014 Glen Phillips Poetry Prize. In 2015 she will be commencing a PhD in Writing at Edith Cowan University. In 2013 Mulla Mulla Press published her second collection lemon oil and Fremantle Press a micro-collection. Her poems have appeared in many publications, including Westerly, Fire (Margaret River Press 2013) and Australian Love Poems (Inkerman & Blunt 2013). Jackson is the founding editor of Uneven Floor poetry magazine, unevenfloorpoetry.blogspot.com. She is a member of the Society of Editors WA. The National Library of Australia archives her collected poems and online home Proximity, proximitypoetry.com.

**John Ryan** was born in Neptune, New Jersey, but has been living in Perth since 2008 where he is completing a postgraduate degree at Edith Cowan University. He writes extensively about the flora of the Southwest corner of W.A. In 2010, he received the CREATRIX Poetry Prize and, in early 2011, he published a chapbook Katoomba Incantation.

**Dr Maureen-Helen** is an experienced writer, teacher and published author. Her memoir, Other People’s Country (ABC Books, 2008) was long-listed for a Walkley Award and short-listed for the WA Premier’s history prize.

**Shane McCauley** is a graduate of both the University of Western Australia and Sydney and has taught English subjects for nearly 40 years. More than a thousand of Shane’s poems, stories articles and reviews have been published in Australian and overseas journals. Most recently, he has published Ghost Catcher (Studio Press, 2012) and The Drunken Elk (Sunline Press, 2010) and edited a number of anthologies of prose and poetry, including the major anthology of WA poets, The Weighing of the Heart (Sunline Press, 2007). He has two more books due for publication in 2014: Trickster and Yoshiwara.

He has won many major literary awards, including the Tom Collins Poetry Prize, the Poetry Australia Bicentennial Poetry Award and the Max Harris Poetry Award.

**Susan Midalia** has a PhD in contemporary Australian women’s fiction and has published on the subject in national and international literary journals. She has published two collections of short stories with UWA Publishing: A History of the Beanbag (2007), which was short listed for the Western Australian Premiers Book Award, and An Unknown Sky (2012), shortlisted for the Steele Rudd Award, Australia’s only national competition for short story collections. Susan has a background as an academic, teacher and editor, and is now a full-time writer who enjoys conducting workshops for those who love language and story.