

## GETTING STARTED IN WRITING

### To think about first

- For whom are you writing? Yourself? Others? If others, then who are they? Family? Friends? Adults? Teenagers? Children?
- What do you want to write – fact or fiction?  
If **fact**, what do you want to write? Articles for newsletters? True stories for magazines? Devotions? Letters? Reviews? Reports of events? Study guides? Non-fiction book eg how-to, biography, autobiography, memoir? Poetry or drama based on real life?  
If **fiction**, what do you want to write? Novels? Short stories? Poetry? Plays? If a novel, what genre? Romance? Fantasy? Historical fiction? General fiction? Children's picture books? Children's novels? Teenage novels?

### Getting started

- Write as much as you can for yourself and your family/friends eg journalling, emailing, letter writing, blogging
- Read books on writing eg:  
*A Novel Idea: Best advice on writing inspirational fiction* Various authors  
*Becoming A Writer* Dorothea Brande  
*Bird by Bird: Some instructions on writing and life* Anne Lamott  
*Revision and Self-Editing* James Scott Bell  
*On Writing* Stephen King  
*Self-Editing for Fiction Writers* Rennie Browne and Dave King  
*The Little Red Writing Book* Mark Tredinnick  
*The Little Green Grammar Book* Mark Tredinnick  
*The Memoir Book* Patti Miller  
*Walking on Water* Madeleine L'Engle  
*Your Story Matters* Leslie Leyland Fields  
*Writing True Stories* Patti Miller
- Work your way through the exercises at the end of the chapters in many of the books above. The book *The Artist's Way (A Course in Discovering and Recovering your Creative Self)* by Julia Cameron may also be helpful.
- **Read** as much as you can, noticing how other people write. The book *Reading Like A Writer* Francine Prose is helpful here.
- Try **writing brief articles** for your church bulletin or club newsletter or any magazine you can find that suits your genre
- **Jot ideas down** on your computer or in notebooks whenever you think of them. Soon you could have a whole outline for a novel there!
- **Be prepared to change things**, re-write, edit, re-edit, re-edit again ... and again ...

- Find two or three people who will give you **honest feedback** on your work
- Enrol in a writing course – classroom format, online, correspondence eg:
  - The many different one day workshops, weekend or term-length courses run by Writing NSW at Rozelle (<http://www.nswwc.org.au/>)
  - The Australian Writers' Centre, Milsons' Pt ([www.writerscentre.com.au/](http://www.writerscentre.com.au/))
  - The Centre for Continuing Education (Camperdown) Creative Writing courses
  - Writing courses at your local Evening College
  - Creative Writing subjects from Tabor College Adelaide
  - Surf the net for other online writing courses, work through the list in the back of *The Australian Writers' Marketplace*
- **Enter the many competitions around for writers eg**
  - Those listed in the Writing NSW online magazine *Newswrite* or the 'e-news'
  - Those listed in the back of *The Australian Writers' Marketplace*
  - Local Writers' Groups competitions eg Fellowship of Australian Writers
- **Join a writers' group for mutual encouragement and 'critiquing' eg**
  - One of a variety run at Writing NSW, Rozelle (see website)
  - Fellowship of Australian Writers' group, or other local group like New Writers' Group, Parramatta (see websites)
  - Omega Writers, a Christian writers' group (online groups, plus actual groups meeting in each state)—see <http://www.omegawriters.org/>
  - Online writers' blog groups such as Christian Writers Downunder, Australasian Christian Writers etc
  - Start a writers' group of your own!
- **Attend Writers' Conferences eg:**
  - Omega Writers' Conferences held each year in different Australian states—see <http://www.omegawriters.org/>
  - American Christian Fiction Writers' Conference in the USA – see [www.acfw.com](http://www.acfw.com)
  - Various weekend seminars, festivals, special events at NSW Writers' Centre eg Children's writers' festival, 'Getting Published' etc
  - Children's Book Council of Australia National Conference – see <https://cbca.org.au/>
  - Writers' Week events in Sydney at Darling Harbour etc