

Sharing skills at a writers' festival *for* writers

Top names in the Australian literary scene will be on hand at a weekend festival of fun and professional development.

Far from exotic, a writer's life is a solitary affair, and like any art form, if you want to get to the top of your profession, it's really hard work. Overnight fame and fortune favours the few, but for most it's hours and hours of writing practice to hone their craft. Those who have made a name for themselves already, will tell you it may involve an element of luck, but the adage about 90 per cent perspiration still applies.

Nevertheless, there are things you can do to increase your chances of making it ... and make the journey that much more palatable.

Mixing with the creme de la creme of the writing world is one of them. On top of that, you need to be a life-long learner, absorbing the knowledge gained by others in the writing community who may be ahead of you.

Imagine taking a workshop with one of Australia's top-selling writers, Graeme Simsion, author of *The Rosie Project* trilogy. Imagine taking lessons from journalist Bettina Arndt and learning from her incredible journey in non-fiction - a woman whose YouTube following is the envy of many authors, and who has courted controversy with her latest book, *#MenToo*.

These two are well-established rock stars when it comes to Australian fiction and non-fiction. But there are many more inspiring stories, too. Canberra writer Karen Viggers is making it big time in France, selling more than 800,000 copies of her latest book there alone.

Jack Heath, who has gone from strength to strength in the world of young adult fiction, is now making a splash in adult fiction with his

quirky crime thrillers. Anne Buist, meanwhile, writes psychological thrillers, having honed her craft in the erotica market. And Marion Halligan, Canberra's own great dame of literature, always has words of wisdom to offer.

These writers, along with many more, will be teaching and sharing at a unique festival next month catering specifically for writers.

Workshops will be held in editing and publishing, along with panels of writers discussing their craft. Putting together book proposals, pitching story ideas, distributing and marketing your work will all be on the menu at the Flash Fiction Fun Weekend in Canberra on April 27 and 28. The weekend will open with the very popular Tales After Dark - Storytelling for Grownups show on the Friday evening (April 26).

It doesn't matter if you write fiction or non-fiction, whether you are a newly emerging writer, mid-career writer or seasoned professional, the festival is for you. It may well be the best professional development you will do all year.

The Flash Fiction Fun Weekend is again being held at the East Hotel in Kingston. Designed to be "a writers' festival for writers", the get together is the only one of its kind in Australia.

Last year, more than 90 per cent of attendees rated the festival nine or 10 out of 10. If you are a writer, committing to spending the weekend on your own self-development is likely to be the best possible investment in yourself.



Flash Fiction Fun Weekend will feature workshops and panels from celebrated writers such as, clockwise from top left, Graeme Simsion, Karen Viggers, Jack Heath and Bettina Arndt.



Calling all **Writers**

**Flash
Fiction Fun
Weekend in
Canberra**

Turbocharge your writing skills

It doesn't matter what genre you write in, or if you are emerging or established.
If you are a writer, **this is for you!**

April 26, 27 & 28 at the East Hotel, Kingston, ACT

Bookings: www.aussiewriters.com.au

