

## WORKSHOPS

Tristan Bancks



David Leser

Workshops have a maximum attendance of 25 except where noted.

\* Concession rate applies to students and NRWC members

### MONDAY 3 & TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

10am – 4pm

**SCU Room, Byron Community & Cultural Centre, Jonson St, Byron Bay**

**\$195/\$165\* CODE 1W Max 20**

**Sarah Armstrong & Alan Close**  
**A fine balance**

This in-depth, hands-on workshop with two highly respected writers and teachers will bring your writing alive. You will learn how to balance the all-important elements of storytelling: scene, summary and reflection. Scene is story unfolding in 'real time', while reflection creates context and layers of meaning and summary helps the reader travel with ease between the exciting bits! Sarah and Alan will help you identify and mould the ingredients of your own story.

There's no need to have a project on the go: simply come with pen and paper, ready to see what emerges. You'll finish the two days with lots of writing on the page and guidance to keep going.

### MONDAY 3 AUGUST

9.30am – 12.30pm

**Waywood Gallery, 3 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay**  
**\$55/\$45\* CODE 2W**

**Tristan Bancks**

**You've got to be kidding**

Writing novels for children sounds like one of those perfect jobs. It is! Tristan Bancks is a prolific international author of novels for children. In this fun and information-packed session he shares writing techniques as well as tips on using the web to connect with your audience, getting published and surviving as a full-time children's author. Bring a pen and paper because you'll be generating a bunch of your own original story ideas on the day.

1.30pm – 4.30pm

**Waywood Gallery, 3 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay**  
**\$55/\$45\* CODE 3W**

**Carl Cleves**

**Songs, poems or stories:  
the art of song writing**

This workshop will focus on song structures and lyric writing, explore rhyme, word play, rhythm and meter as well as offer many hints on how to get your creativity flowing and develop your song ideas. Carl lectures at Southern Cross University and toured nationally and internationally with The Hottentots. Widely travelled, Carl will share some of his unique approach to creating songs. His songs have won numerous awards including the national Australian Songwriters' Association (ASA) and MusicOZ awards.

10.00am – 4.00pm

**Ewingsdale Hall, William Flick Lane, Ewingsdale**  
**\$100/\$80\* CODE 4W Max 20**

**David Leser**

**The whites of their eyes**

Over the past 30 years David Leser has written profiles for publications like *The Bulletin*, *The Australian*, *HQ magazine*, *Good Weekend*, *The Australian Women's Weekly* and *European Vanity Fair*. His stories have ranged from the combative, with public figures like Alan Jones, Pauline Hanson and John Howard, to the confessional, with people like Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, Barbara Blackman and June Newton. In this one day workshop David helps hone the skills of the profile writer or would-be profile writer, explaining what's involved in bringing an assortment of characters to life on the page.

### TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

10.00am – 4.00pm

**Waywood Gallery, 3 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay**  
**\$90/\$75\* CODE 5W**

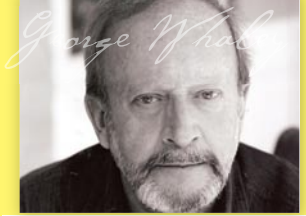
**Colin Bowles**

**The writer's toolbox**

Colin Bowles aka Colin Falconer aka Mark d'Arbanville have all been writing professionally for 25 years and between them have published thirty-nine books. Class topics will include: Why the Adverb is Your Enemy and Have You Lost the Plot? Many new writers lose their way even before they start. The workshop will look at how to find plot, theme and structure inside your idea and how to avoid common narrative errors that will

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## WORKSHOPS CONTINUED...



turn your reader and editor off, every single time. You will discover practical tools to take away and use to improve the manuscript you are working on now, or to put your idea on paper. There is no formula to success, but there are golden rules that you can never break. Do you know what they are?

### TUESDAY 4 AUGUST

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Ewingsdale Hall, William Flick Lane, Ewingsdale**

**\$55/\$45\* CODE 6W**

**Susan Varga**

#### **The sentence matters**

You may have a wonderful idea for a novel or short story with the plot worked out to the last detail, but none of that will matter a hoot if you don't know how to put a sentence together. Each sentence must do exactly the work you mean it to do. It must also work in relation to the paragraph, the page and the chapter. We'll look at different sentence styles and structures, then examine the architecture of the paragraph, writing and critiquing as we go. By the end of the workshop you will have written a page in which every sentence counts!

**1.30pm – 4.30pm**

**Ewingsdale Hall, William Flick Lane, Ewingsdale**

**\$55/\$45\* CODE 7W**

**George Whaley**

#### **Reclaiming a life: the pleasures, pain and puzzlement of biography**

In this workshop you will learn to write about extraordinary lives and how to choose your subject as

well as the ethics of dissecting the corpus or digging the dirt. Some other topics that will be discussed are: 'too good to be true', avoiding hagiography, interviewing and the delights of research, draft and knowing when to stop. This workshop will also cover how to survive an editor, the financial benefits and the vagaries of publishing and marketing.

### WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**SCU Room, Byron Community & Cultural Centre, Jonson St, Byron Bay**

**\$55/\$45\* CODE 8W**

**Mark Dapin**

#### **Feature writing for magazines**

Mark Dapin has been a freelance writer, an editor-in-chief and everything in between. He talks about the way magazines work, why editors never get back to you, and what you can do to make it a little more likely that they'll return your emails. He discusses the common mistakes freelance writers make in pitching features and the kind of stories that magazines need and don't need. The most important point to remember is that most stories start from an interview, so Mark will talk about how to interview people, and how not to, using examples from his own vast library of personal mistakes. There'll be one interviewing exercise, but only about a paragraph of writing, so don't turn up and expect to come out with a feature. Bring magazines that interest you and pen and paper.

**1.30pm – 4.30pm**

**SCU Room, Byron Community & Cultural Centre, Jonson St, Byron Bay**

**\$55/\$45\* CODE 9W**

**Robert Gray**

#### **A few things I've learned: writing poetry**

Robert Gray discusses what can be taught about writing poetry and how you might find out the rest. Bring a poem of your own for discussion.

**10.00am – 4.00pm**

**Waywood Gallery, 3 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay**

**\$90/\$75\* CODE 10W**

**Linda Jaivin**

#### **Making up the truth**

Rip that bodice, sink that warship, fight the Civil War (any civil war), throw the Christians to the lions if you like, but do it in style. This workshop on historical fiction with Linda Jaivin, author of the critically acclaimed *A Most Immoral Woman*, will show you how to craft great fiction from historical fact. Topics covered will include how to find the right story, how to research it, knowing when to close the source books, the creation of credible characters and the literary and ethical challenges posed by basing a story on real people and events.

*Kevin Dabala's*



*Dominic Knight*



*Vanessa Gorman*

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Byron Services Club Meeting Room, Jonson St, Byron Bay**  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 11W

**Stephen Dando-Collins**

**Waking the dead: putting life into historical characters in fiction & non-fiction**

A woman throws herself from the Eiffel Tower. A factory fire in Chicago kills scores of child workers. A pilot lands his plane in Dublin, when he was supposed to be landing in America. A Jewish girl attempts to assassinate Russian communist leader Vladimir Lenin in St Petersburg. A Maori princess is found dead in a Sydney pub. All are true events, and all form the core of this unique workshop by internationally renowned novelist and historian Stephen Dando-Collins.

**1.30pm – 4.30pm**

**Byron Services Club Meeting Room, Jonson St, Byron Bay**  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 12W

**Dominic Knight**

**The gag reflex**

How do you write a joke that's loved by all? Dominic Knight has no idea, but after ten years with *The Chaser*, he's had plenty of experience with offensive ones. In this workshop, one of the writers of *The War On Everything* will explain the uniquely bureaucratic process by which the group develops its material, and offer handy hints on handling complaints and being arrested. Participants will develop their own hilarious satirical news headlines and killer TV ideas, to which Dominic will own the rights in perpetuity.

**1.30pm – 4.30pm**

**Verandah Room, Byron Community & Cultural Centre, Jonson St, Byron Bay**  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 13W

**Vanessa Gorman**

**Drilling for the core: what's at the heart of your life story?**

Perhaps an extraordinary event has shaped your life and left you with some important life lessons to share? Perhaps you want to entertain with a series of amazing anecdotes? Where to now? Just as in many works of fiction, what will keep the reader gripped in a memoir is a strong story and a character on a journey of discovery. This workshop is about finding the deeper, defining story that will drive the narrative of your memoir and help you find its structure.

It is about focusing on the heart of the matter, the wisdom and insight you have to share, and letting this quest for healing or self discovery become the guiding, organisational principle of your plot. A practical workshop for anyone serious about writing their life and for those looking for a way to begin.

**THURSDAY 6 AUGUST**

**10.00am – 4.30pm**

**SCU Room, Byron Community & Cultural Centre, Jonson St, Byron Bay**  
\$75/\$55\* CODE 14W

**Industry professionals**

**Nuts & bolts: so you want to be a writer**

A full day seminar covering the business and practicalities

of being a writer. Rather than showing you how to write, this seminar will cover the intricacies of the publishing process, the path of a manuscript through a publishing house, the role of the agent, the work of the manuscript assessor and how an editor pulls the good bones out of the flabby body of work. Meet top industry professionals as they unpick the jargon, the myths and the truths and even point you toward opportunities of further writing education and development. A fat toolkit of insider knowledge for emerging writers and those who are just plain curious.

Sponsored by *The Australian Writer's Marketplace*. Ticket price includes 3 month online subscription.

**9.30am – 12.30pm**

**Waywood Gallery, 3 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay**  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 15W

**Mary Moody**

**Writing from the heart**

This workshop will examine all that Mary Moody has learned about writing personal stories in an intimate, engaging and accessible way. Writing is as much about expressing feelings as it is about getting the facts of the story down on the page. Learn to paint a word picture, to set the scene, to introduce the characters, to reveal the sequence of events slowly and capture what is happening at each stage of the story as it progresses.

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## WORKSHOPS CONTINUED...

2.00pm – 5.00pm

**Waywood Gallery**, 3 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 16W

**David Ghostboy Stavanger**

### **Let words take flight: performance poetry from the ground up**

This performance poetry workshop will help any emerging poet to sharpen their words both for the page and live forms, as well as introduce them to the electric world of slam and spoken weird art. Topics: finding new wor(l)ds; free writing and cut-up; narrative and metaphor in spoken word; be brave: editing poetry for the page and stage; the sounds of slam: rhyme and rhythm; finding the 'voice' of a poem; waking up... and let's keep awake an audience; developing performance techniques; group discussion and analysis of poetry performance on DVD and by Ghostboy; plus six dynamic group and individual writing exercises.

9.30am – 12.30pm

**Verandah Room, Byron Community & Cultural Centre**, Jonson St, Byron Bay  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 17W

**Kevin Rabalais**

### **The art of the novel**

This workshop will help you enhance your novel-writing skills and polish your first novel. We will focus on essential aspects of fiction writing and examine plot, structure, rhythm and characterisation. The workshop will teach us how to identify problems in our own fiction so that we may seek solutions. In

the process, the workshop will help us discover the importance of reading like a writer in order to write the book that we've always had in mind.

1.30pm – 4.30pm

**Verandah Room, Byron Community & Cultural Centre**, Jonson St, Byron Bay  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 18W

**Kristina Olsson**

### **Ransacking the past: the art of biography**

Janet Malcolm describes the biographer as a professional burglar, 'breaking into a house, rifling through certain drawers'. Whose territory do we enter when we embark on writing the story of another and whose laws do we follow, theirs or our own? How do we bring a person to life when the events of that life threaten to overwhelm the story? What right do we have to mess about with the facts of another's life? Whose story is it, anyway? In this workshop participants will debate questions of the subject and the writer as characters, the context of a life story, where research starts and stops, 'footstepping' a subject, biography and fiction, and ethics. Kristina leads participants through biography from conception, research, structure, narrative, context, setting and questions of identity, the writer's as well as the subject's. Bring some pages of work and feisty questions.

1.30pm – 4.30pm

**Byron Shire Council Training Room**, Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay  
\$55/\$45\* CODE 19W

**Mark Tredinnick**

### **Keeping it real: the art of fact**

Some of the most enduring and exciting writing of our time is happening in essays, memoir, nature writing, life writing, travel writing and other non-fiction forms. This is a workshop in that kind of writing, the kind you make from the ideas in your head, the world you inhabit, the country you care for, the things you remember, from your afflictions, affections, dreams and addictions. It's a creative writing workshop in the literature of fact. If fiction is the art of telling beautiful lies, (literary) non-fiction is the art of telling beautiful truths. It has its disciplines (ethical and aesthetic), and it offers exquisite rewards to its readers. The workshop models some fine non-fiction; it explores techniques for writing your own true stories; it considers the ethics of non-fiction; it looks at publishing options; it gets participants writing and offers them informed feedback and guidance. The American poet and memoirist Kim Stafford once described creative non-fiction as 'the musical arrangement of passionate facts'. So bring your passionate facts along and let's see how one might arrange them musically. Come and find out how to write the real world like a writer. Come and find out how to make art from facts.