

Go Write Now

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Go Write Now Course Information

Welcome to my courses.

I have written for most of my adult life. It's now time for me to put something back, to help others by teaching them everything I have learnt along the way.

I have developed courses that guide you and encourage you to write. These courses contain all the information I wish I had known when I was starting out.

My current courses are:

Go Write Now for children

Go Write Now memoir

Go Write Now poetry

You have enquired about writing memoir, sometimes called 'life writing.'

I hope you will find something here that will help you.

Janice

www.gowritenow.nz

Go Write Now Memoir

This course will suit busy people who need to be able to fit their assignments and their writing around other activities in their lives.

Within the course are modules that give you essential skills and knowledge, but more than half of each course's modules are selected by you, the student.

You get to customise your course and choose what aspects of writing you want to develop. I try to fit in with your needs.

Each module has assignments that give you the chance to apply your learning, and all work is assessed and commented on by me, the course creator and tutor.

The biggest difficulty for ALL writers is confidence.

Writing, and sharing with others can seem such an exposing activity.

I am here to support you, encourage you, and to give you confidence.

Before you start

Upfront you complete a questionnaire about your reasons for doing this course, your expectations and motivations. You tell me what writing you have done, why you want to complete the course, and what your goals are. Thus, before you start the course, I have a good idea of how best to enable you to write on the topic of your choice, and in your own style.

One to one communication with your tutor

During the course you have the opportunity to communicate with me on the phone or through email. I have discovered this to be important as such personal connection allows you to guide your own development.

If you want to continue working with me after the course is completed, this is easily arranged.

You'll be surprised how fast you will learn, how the clarity and originality of your work will improve, and how easily you will develop your own unique writing style. This will all help you create the sorts of word pictures you want to achieve and significantly increase your chances of publication success if this is your goal.

Don't delay. The sooner you learn, the sooner you will be able to apply your training to all your writing.

Your stories are waiting for you to write them.

About your tutor, Janice Marriott

Janice Marriott is an experienced writing teacher, manuscript assessor and mentor. She has taught over 400 students in the last five years. She is a member of the NZ Association of Manuscript Assessors and The NZ Society of Authors (PEN). She is a course creator of writing courses delivered by the New Zealand Institute of Business Studies. She has been the moderator of Northtec's Creative Writing courses since 2006. She has tutored and mentored for The Creative Hub, Auckland, and Katherine Mansfield House, Wellington. She mentors and assesses manuscripts for NZ Society of Authors. She has been on the selection panel choosing beginning writers for the NZSA mentor programme. She has judged the Ronald Hugh Morrieson Awards 2011. She is frequently asked to give workshops for both children and adults.

Her popularity as a tutor rests on her attention to detail, her precise and appropriate comments, her broad knowledge of the publishing industry, and her own career as an internationally successful writer.

“I enjoy equipping people with the skills they need to make their own stories and poems come alive. When a student finally feels they have been able to put into words something dear to their hearts I feel a great deal of satisfaction.”

She has co-written 4 popular books of memoir, Common Ground, Common Table, Common Lives and Changing Lives.

She has written a book about grandparenting called Grandparents Talk.

She has been published in a wide range of genres, by publishers in Europe, America, Australia and New Zealand.

She is a multi-award-winning internationally published writer of novels, plays, poems, gardening books, four books of memoir, short stories, radio plays, songs, TV scripts for Weta Workshops.

She has won the NZ Post Junior Fiction Award, Aim Senior Fiction Award, Aim Book of the Year and Esther Glen Medal for Fiction, and been a prizewinner in the Kevin Ireland Poetry Competition. In 2018 she was awarded the Margaret Mahy Medal.

Janice has a Masters degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a teaching qualification.

Why do you want to write a memoir?

Writing a memoir is always satisfying.

Janice says, “ For myself I like writing about the extraordinary in ordinary daily life. I like to see the world through fresh eyes.”

This 7-module course is designed to help you create the best material you can, on the topic and in the style of your choice.

It will guide you through the process of writing clearly, freshly, and vividly to captivate your reader. Flexible learning is our key.

What You Will Learn - Course Overview

The course consists of 3 foundational modules and 4 you pick to suit yourself. The three foundation modules help you to critique your work, organise your material, develop your writing style, and think about publication options. These modules will give you the knowledge and skills to achieve the sort of writing you dream of.

You choose four other modules that suit your interests, and allow you to specialize. You complete these modules when the foundations have been laid. Some of these are double modules. This choice encourages you to follow your own path and write what you want to write.

Note: It is also possible to choose a double module, (it counts as two modules) about two of the particularly popular topics, Pets, or Gardens. Often fun and always attuned to your interests, these two-module choices help you create, refine and express your ideas around a particular topic. Each double module includes exercises, tips, and inspiring examples of other people’s fine writing on the selected topic.

In each module you will be asked to apply your learning by writing your own project. These assignments will be read and commented on by your tutor.

The most important part of this course isn’t contained in the course notes. It is the work you will write while you are taking the course, and the comments you will get back from me, your tutor, about your writing. By the end of the course you will have a body of work you will be proud of, and the confidence to continue adding to it.

Go Write Now Memoir foundation modules are:

Foundation Module 1

Finding a story to write

This module shows you how to develop ideas for stories.

We all have different stories within us. Successful writers are simply those who have found the stories inside themselves that only they can write.

This first module will stimulate you to generate unique story ideas best suited to your own style.

You will find a topic for your memoir. If you already have a topic, this important module will help you shape it to become manageable. It will show you how to give your memoir a focus.

Foundation Model 2

Shaping your material

This module focuses on structure and shows you how to build a dramatic narrative from the inevitable chaos of real-life. These techniques will make your writing memorable and entertaining.

In this module you will learn how to tell a story by:

Selecting the crucial moments

Shaping the plot

Knowing what to put in, what to leave out

Creating strong beginnings and endings

Using dialogue and settings that will bring a scene to life for a reader

Foundation Module 3

Building Character

This module will assist you to create memorable and convincing characters.

You will learn how to:

Describe the people in your memoir through their actions, using precise detail.

Write realistic dialogue,

Describe characters without losing the momentum of the story,

Write from your heart

The modules from which you can pick-and- mix 4 are as follows:

Module 4
Polish Your Writing

Whether you are writing a history or a series of humorous tales you need to know how to create a writing style that sets the mood you want to convey.

Here you will learn to choose the right word, build vocabulary, develop your style, express exactly what you want to say.

This module will help you add lustre to your writing, and convey emotion in your narrative.

Module 5
Individualized tutoring around your own special project.

Special attention will be paid to selecting material and structuring it.

Module 6
Writing a memoir in letters

This is an opportunity for you to receive feedback on six letters that you will write over the duration of the module. You firstly select the person you want to write to and describe that person to your tutor. This could be fictional – for example it could be your grandfather who died some years ago. It could be your children, for them to read when they are grown up. It could be a teacher who influenced you a long time ago. Or, of course, it could be a very real person you are actually sending the letters to.

The point of choosing a recipient is that it means you have a purpose and you tailor your writing to suit that purpose.

You then agree with your tutor on a time frame for the letters. Weekly? Monthly? It is entirely your choice. You send each letter to your tutor for comment.

Obviously this is a very personal module. The experience will be different for each person embarking on it, and for the tutor. The tutor will act as a mentor. She will encourage you to say what YOU want to say, letter by letter. She will tell you how she responds to each letter, help you with any technicalities along the way and with any editing required, and inspire you to keep going.

Module 7

Editing Your Work

The difference between ordinary writing and quality writing that holds the reader's attention is usually editing. This module is a thorough lesson in editing. I will show you how to review your work, correct any mistakes, remove any ambiguity, and make your meaning shine through. This is always satisfying. There are useful checklists here to help you.

Module 8

Sharing your memoir

This will show you how to identify and enthrall your reader. You will learn everything you need to know to get your book out there for people to read. You will learn all the different routes to publication.

You might want to produce a few copies of your work for the family, or for workmates, or for a club, or you might want to see it on bookshop shelves. This module shows you how to go about giving your memoir the audience you want it to have.

Module 9 and 10

Go Write Now My Garden 1 and Go Write Now My Garden 2

Do you want to tell others about your garden and your life in it? Or do you want to keep a diary for your own records, documenting what to plant when and what to do each month? Here is everything you need to know to help you write about your garden, its annual cycles and its history, or about what the garden means to you. These two popular modules help you use the garden as a way in to writing about your life. They include exercises, tips, and inspiring examples of other people's fine garden writing. It is possible to do just one of these or both of them. Most people who do one of them also do the second one.

Module 11 and 12

Go Write Now My Pet 1 and Go Write Now My Pet 2

Capturing a favourite pet's unique character and idiosyncrasies is always entertaining for the writer and with the skills learnt here, just as enjoyable for others to share. It can also be a way of structuring your own memoir about yourself. These two modules can help you build up a memorable word picture of your pet, and create a deeply satisfying record. You could then keep the resulting memoir, give it as a present, or publish it.

Both modules include exercises, tips, and inspiring examples of other people's writing about their pets. It is possible to do just one of these or both of them. Most people who do one of them also do the second one.

Module 13

Developing your Memory

If you wish to write a personal memoir, about yourself or about someone you have known, the strength of your memoir will depend on how vividly you remember certain events, people, places, and times.

No one has as good a memory as they would like to have but there are ways to drill down into the bedrock of life experience and refresh your memory. This is a skill that is useful for ALL types of writing. It helps us eliminate vagueness and find images with impact. This module contains fourteen memory writing exercise, and much else that will inspire you to achieve your writing ambition. By completing the exercises, and sharing some of them with me for comments and advice, you will have written or rewritten a substantial memoir. All the exercises here will result in writing that will make your project sparkle.

Module 14

Go Write Now For a Child

Don't let those magic moments slip away forever.

Learn how to capture moments for the family to keep.

Sharpen your writing skills with these two modules that will give you the confidence and techniques to create a record of the most precious and fleeting beings on Earth, children.

This module will help you write something for a gift for someone in the family.

It might be humour, anecdote, poetry, or a mixture of all these.

At the completion of the module you will have something unique to treasure.

Module 15 and 16

Go Write Now My Journey 1 and Go Write Now My Journey 2

Do you want to tell others about a journey you have taken? It can be a real travel experience, or a metaphorical journey, such as a journey through an illness, bereavement, a change in life style, becoming a millionaire – anything.

Or do you want to get the record straight, keep a diary for your own records, documenting exactly what happened, when and where?

Perhaps you want to write about your life as a journey of discovery?

Here is everything you need to know to help you write about a journey.

These two modules include exercises, tips, and inspiring examples of other people's fine journey writing.

Course Delivery

Modules are supplied as pdfs via email one at a time so you concentrate on that one discipline. My students, who are people with busy lives, have found this to be the ideal way to achieve their best work. It means you put your energy into one area, concentrate, focus, and then move on to the next.

In each module you will be asked to apply your learning by writing. You need to allow for between two to eight hours to complete these assignments.

The time taken is often a balance between familiarity with the topic, other responsibilities, and the effort you put in.

These assignments are not mere technical exercises.

They will all be opportunities for you to expand and hone your writing skills and will become part of your portfolio of creative work.

As with any skill, practice is an essential part of success.

By the end of the course you will have a body of work you will be proud of, and the confidence to continue with it.

The most important part of this course is the work that you will write while you are taking the course, and the comments you will receive from your tutor.

All your writing during the course will be read and commented on by me, either on your electronic file itself or in a separate letter, or both. The close and careful reading of your work, and the specific comments and suggestions you will receive, will help you improve your skills and motivate you to produce your best writing.

Endorsement

“I cannot say thank you enough for what you have done. Tears welled up in my eyes at what you had written. I am so very grateful for your assessment and thankful for the experience you bring to this. I feel like I have been so fortunate to have you look at this, Janice.”

Richard Hall

Writer of a published memoir about hunting.

Registration Information

Students are advised to do the whole course in order to get the full advantages from their relationship with their tutor, and in order to learn everything there is to know that will improve any subsequent writing they do.

Each of the foundation modules helps you learn the basic techniques and routines of good memoir writing. The confidence and knowledge gained by working through Modules 1 – 3 is cumulative. All subsequent modules will benefit from your having acquired essential skills in the three foundation modules.

If you are unable to take the full course, however, it can be arranged for you to do a section of it. Email me about this possibility.

I hope you will join me and, by doing so, devote some of your precious time to developing your talent to its full potential.

Find information regarding course fees by emailing me:

Click here:

janice@gowritenow.nz

There is no time like the present to develop new skills.

Give yourself this gift.

Become a writer.

Janice Marriott

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