

Murrumburrah Writers' Group Newsletter

PLEASE NOTE: Next Thursday will be our final meeting for 2019. On Saturday November 30, 2019 will be our Christmas party. Each of you have received an invitation so please let me (Robin) know if you're coming by November 27 on 6386 2100. It promises to be a great night and it would be fantastic to see you.

FOR THE MEETING:

Please don't forget to bring along your homework plus please also send it to Marty if you haven't already done so.



OUR NEXT MEETING

Thursday,

February 27 at 6pm

at the **Murrumburrah Court House,**
Cnr. Vernon & Albury Sts, **MURRUMBURRAH.**
If you wish please bring a dish to share,
tea & coffee are supplied



***** PLUS *****

bring your writing materials
as well as any assignments you wish to read

The ENTRY FEE

(which covers electricity plus other expenses) is:

\$2's **members,**

\$3's **non-members,**

Membership is \$5's per year.

If you'd like more information, need transport and/or wish to let us know you'd like to attend:



please call Robin on 02 6386 2100.

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Members Under Focus:

Every month we focus on one of our members whose careers, lives and writing abilities are varied. Many are published authors however no matter whom our members are, each has something important to say.

This month our focus is on Rob Provan

Such is his gift that Rob Provan could have become a top drawer Australian actor plus an ground-breaking director however he chose to remain an amateur and MWG is one of many beneficiaries of his extraordinary talent.



Rob Provan, Joy Rule, Kerrie Provan, Julie OConnor, Phil Mitchell rehearsing for My Fair Lady.

Rob, who lives in Harden, will be directing the play pertaining to our local history that some members of the MWG are currently writing, under the leadership of playwright Marty Boyle. One thing we can be assured of is that with Rob and Marty's contributions our play will be of the highest calibre.

Rob's most recent involvement was last year with the Young Theatre Company's production of Lerner and Loewe's "My Fair Lady". Such were the rave reviews, especially from the audience, that the matinee performance on the final Sunday was sold out.

Evidently, the audience came away from the musical with constructive observations such as: the show in every aspect was professionally presented; the actors were outstanding, the strong voices of all leading performers which included Rob Provan's were suited admirably to the roles they portrayed; the sets were magnificent and the costumes were elegant as well as impressive. And that would not have been easy to achieve because the original actor who played Professor Higgins (Rob's role) was Rex Harrison who has been seen on TV on many occasions and his performance, as everyone would know, was seamless.

During his illustrious career Rob has played Chief of Police in 'The Pirates of Penzance', Herman in 'Sweet Charity', Uncle Max in 'The Sound of Music', Roo in Ray Lawler's 'Kid Stakes' (the first play in his 17th doll trilogy) plus, as mentioned, Professor Henry Higgins in 'My Fair Lady'.

Rob appears to have found the perfect partner because his wife Kerrie also treads the boards often appearing in the same productions.

As a director Rob has presided over productions as 'MacBeth', Tim Firth's 'Calendar Girls', Nick Enright's 'Daylight Saving', 'A Mid-Summer Nights Dream' and Dave Simpson's 'The Naked Truth'

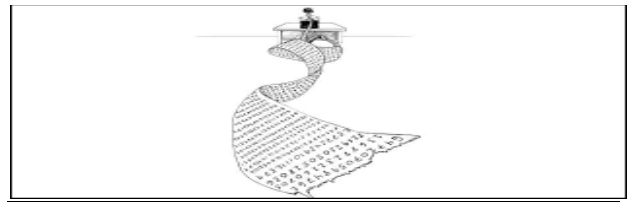
In Calendar Girls Rob and his team managed to raise more than \$17,000's for CanAssist – no mean feat. The funds raised included the sale of a rather cheeky Calendar Girls Calendar.

A member of the cast, Lois Terry, commented that in 32 years of acting she can't recall a production she enjoyed more and that Rob had somehow managed to draw the best performance possible from each actor.

Currently Rob is President of The Hilltop Regional Theatre which until recently was The Young Theatre Company.

And if that's not enough to keep him busy he runs a business and has just got permission to stage Noel Coward's 'Blithe Spirit' (a very funny comedy) in September this year. So early planning is underway for that.

Writers' Group Roundup:



Writers' Group Roundup offers a monthly summary of what's happening in our writing groups. It's amazing the changes that are taking place – keep up the good work everyone!

Welcome back I hope you all had an extra special break, although I must say it was weird for us. Everywhere Greg and I were booked to go there was a raging fire, so we decided to stay at home where I developed a cough that sounded as though I had a serious dose of the flu, but it was discovered that my throat was sensitive to the smoke. Thank goodness the smoke has gone because the hacking cough has gone too. **BY THE WAY MARTY IS STILL AWAITING SOME ASSIGNMENTS SO PLEASE, PLEASE SEND THEM TO HIM POSTE HASTE**

What's on in our writing world:

Writing for Children

Lambing Flat Writers

SATURDAY, March 7 From 1.30 pm

Young Services Club, Cloete Street

Cost \$20,

Lambing Flat FAW will be hosting a seminar featuring three experienced authors.

Charlotte Calder, Pat Simmons

and Helen McCosker

will outline their own experience and then share their expertise from getting the initial idea, writing the story, then finding an illustrator and publisher with moderator

Peter Symes.

There will be a Q & A session before breaking up for general discussion and afternoon tea.

Booking is essential

For more information ring

0459707728



The latest from local writers:

The most recent published poetry from Robyn Sykes is entitled 'Thoughts, Rorts and Farming Sorts', available in paperback or CD.:

Robyn Sykes sculpts words using metaphors, metre, similes, rhyme and more. The multi-award-winning poet, writer and entertainer has incubated crocodile eggs, lived in Japan, edited a newspaper, focussed an electron microscope, worked on a farm and with her husband raised four sons.

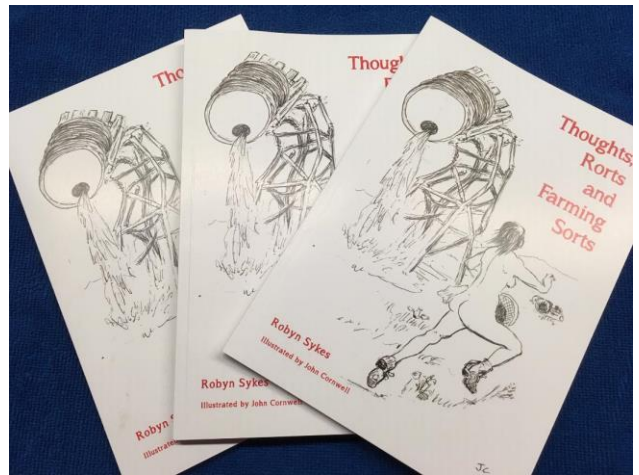


Robyn Sykes pic Margaret Rhodes.jpg

Caption: Robyn performs at the Harden Gold Trails Festival 2015. Photo courtesy Margaret Rhodes.

These experiences mix and match to produce Robyn's unique poetry. Her most recent poetry collection is *Thoughts, Rorts and Farming Sorts*, available as paperback or CD.

The books are: \$15, CDs: \$20. Plus postage and handling: \$10. For package deal discounts visit www.robynsykes.com or contact Robyn Sykes, robynsykespoet@gmail.com, 0401 289 178.



Thoughts, Rorts and Farming Sorts is Robyn Sykes' most recent poetry collection.

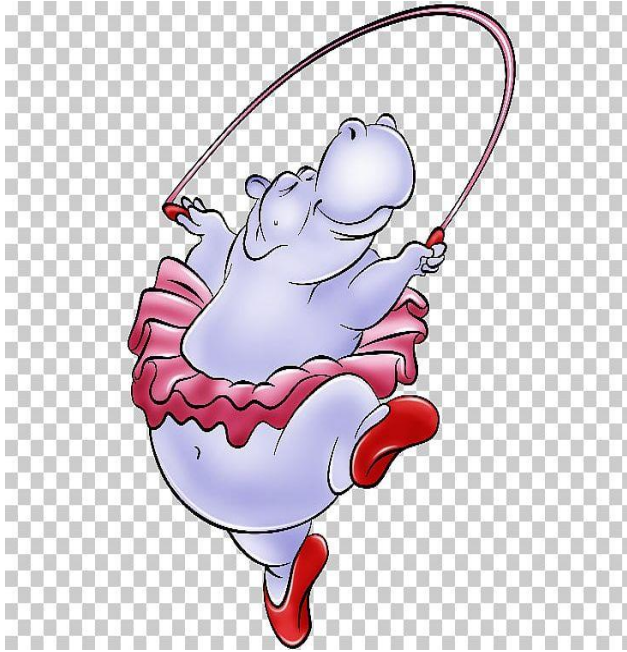
Top Writing Tips, Secrets & Tricks

Writers do not get enough credit as it is perceived that writing is easy and uncomplicated. Sometimes, being a writer requires you to go beyond what you think you can do. There are no shortcuts that you can take and hard work and long hours are the road to success. It really does not matter what type of genre you write in, the process is the same. Everyone has to do a little research, planning, outlining and the eventually stringing words together.



Luckily, writers are receiving more jobs as the value of good content has increased. You can be an [academic ghostwriter](#) or a tabloids writer, you know the struggle. Through the years, there has been a lot of experimenting when it comes to writing and we can learn a few valuable lessons from it. Some work and some don't, but we are going to focus on those that has gained popularity for good reasons. You can be a great and successful writer. All you need

to do is remain consistent and persevere. Here are some of the best tips, secrets and tricks to help you reach your own level of success.



You have to read

I do not understand writers who do not read. Where do you find your inspiration from? The knowledge you can gain from increasing the amount of reading you do is incredible. Reading the work of those who have gained success is inspiring, but the material in itself is where the magic is at. You can use the writing styles of good writers and incorporate it into your own. Some believe that they are not readers, but you might have not found the perfect book for you. If you do not enjoy what you are currently reading, find something else. Perhaps you don't enjoy reading a ghost paper but you might like a good romantic novel. You have to enjoy it, otherwise it just seems like another job.

Write daily

If you are not already writing every day, it might seem impossible to do so. However, [it is a practice that many of the best writers have](#). You do not have to write for work, but even if it is a letter to your best friend, just write. Depending on your workload or your mood that day, start with the first work and build on that. Writing every day creates a habit that tells you that you don't have to be in the mood to write. Sometimes you don't feel like doing it, but this is a job and it needs to get done. Just like exercising, once you start, you never regret doing it. Your writing will evolve so much if you start this habit. Even if you feel like it is a waste of time, give it time to notice the results.

Forget getting published

When you write, do not worry too much about the content being published. Being a writer is more than the recognition of those who pretend to know good writing. Write about what matters to you and eventually you will be recognised without trying too hard. There is a market out there for the type of material you want to write about. In the moment of working on your piece, you want to make that your only focus. Forget about what others will feel about it. When you do the best that you can do, everything fits together. Academic ghostwriting is a job with letter recognition, but having added value to the lives of others is a great accomplishment.

Engage

Writers are nothing without the people who will eventually read the material. If you do not engage your readers, they will stop half way through your work. When someone reads your work, you want them to feel like they know you or relate to what you are writing. This is how you are going to gain a fan base. People will only share your work if it had an impact on them. The best way you can do this is to write the way you speak. Sound like an actual person, instead of a well thought through dictionary. When you do this, people relate and if done correctly, you will engage your readers.



Perfection is a myth

There is no writer who is perfect in what they do. In fact, many of the most successful writers make what we perceive to be mistakes. When you forget about getting everything perfectly done, you are going to be less stressed and write better content. [Making intentional mistakes](#) also allows the reader to understand that this is just a normal person behind the writing. Don't be too hard on yourself if you notice a grammar error after you published. Chances are no one will even notice it if your story is good.

Murrumburrah Writers' Groups Aims:



The Murrumburrah Writers Group logo

The Murrumburrah Writers Group aims to expand writer's abilities as well as their skills, while focusing on encouraging the love of writing plus endorsing professional writing practice. In alliance with you our Writers Group will endeavour to foster an energetic, inventive, as well as a supportive writing family. Where possible it's the group's intention to guide writers towards publication (if you haven't already published) and also to work towards finding writing opportunities for writers. Our group is suitable for keen writers of fiction and non-fiction, of most genre, who wish to build their writing plus presentation skills and who're prepared to offer constructive support to other writers.

Introducing Our Team:

The 'Murrumburrah Writers' Group' team is a volunteer board dedicated to using their skills to help grow a thriving arena for those interested in developing their writing.



MANAGING DIRECTOR DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Robin Cooper - 02 6386 2100, 0408 021 026

Robin is an experienced arts curator who ran gatherings for those interested in the performing as well as the visual arts.

With a background in journalism Robin's interests are in writing, film, literature, art, in fact most arenas covering the arts. She also has experience in all aspects of running her own businesses as well as in events management. Robin's position/s at the Writers Group includes writing the newsletter, press releases and also handling all publicity tasks.

In addition she liaises with members, develops activities, and in general keeps the 'group' ticking. Robin's currently writing her first book.



DESIGN DIRECTOR

Pam Heys 6386 4789

Pam has a background in teaching, she has lived in China and is an award winning artist,



PHOTOGRAPHIC DIRECTOR

Diane Murphy 0439 785 687

Diane is an avid photographer who enjoys creating photographic compositions for her own use and for her family. Although her work is of a high standard she's chosen not to enter competitions but instead keep photography as a hobby. Diane, who has travelled extensively, held a managerial position within the Club industry for a number of decades. Her interests include writing, photography, reading and art.



FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Greg Medway - 0487 028 657

Greg has been a successful businessman for more than 35 years. He has just had his first book published which is about 'how to develop a viable business in China'. So far it's received much acclaim from businessmen and academics. Greg's hobbies are writing, poetry and sport.



GRANTS DIRECTOR

John McAvoy 0439 785 687

John held a number of positions in the Public Service and although retired, he's currently working with a team of 25 on a ground breaking scientific programme that's developing technology which aims to grow a permanent home within three or so days. If successful this technology will be ideal for third world countries and disasters zones where emergency housing is required. John has always held a great interest in literature and wishes to advance this interest by developing his writing skills.

Membership Form:

If you wish to become a member of our group, please contact Robin on 6386 2100 and she will send you a membership form.

