

Media Release

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Fiction Essentials, Writing for the Young, Poet's Corner Getting Published

The 2012 Gloucester Writers Festival May 4-6 at Gloucester High School has been extended with Friday May 4 a whole day of workshops.

These workshops include a Masterclass with Dr Kathryn Heyman who is an award winning novelist, playwright and creative writing tutor. Kathryn will lead a short intensive writing workshop on some of the crucial tools for writing fiction. For writers working on a longer work, Kathryn will lead participants through focused writing tasks designed to help you get to the heart of your story and rediscover the joy in writing. Bookings for this Masterclass can be made on line www.gloucesterwritersfestival.com – registration is \$55 or \$25 student concession.

There is also a half-day workshop for fiction and non-fiction writers on Getting Published. This is being run by Irina Dunn, who is the Director of the Australian Writers' Network.

Many people yearn to publish their writing between the covers of a book and to experience the pleasure of seeing their name in print, but not many know how to go about this apparently complex task.

In this three-hour practical seminar Irina Dunn will help you get your writing career off the ground by providing information on the role of editors and ms assessors; how to find the right publisher for your book; publish in Australia or overseas? preparing a publishing proposal; literary agents; literary competitions; copyright; self-publishing/partnership publishing and any other questions you may have about writing and publishing. Bookings for this workshop can also be made on line www.gloucesterwritersfestival.com – registration \$35 or \$15 student concession.

At 6pm after the workshops there is the opportunity for Festival attendees to meet and have a drink with the writers. This will be again held at the Gloucester Tennis Club. A barbecue dinner with sweets costs only \$30 and bookings are absolutely essential. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Saturday and Sunday are full with fascinating, stimulating and entertaining panel sessions. Day or weekend passes to the festival allow attendees to participate in all the panel discussions, where writers will talk about the stories behind their books, their motivation, ideas, the pain and the joy.

The Saturday panel sessions include "Mining the Past for Stories" which will discuss: What draws writers to this genre of fiction? Why does the past offer such a rich field of inspiration for fiction? What can fiction do that non-fiction historical writing can't? What kind of research is required for historical fiction? Why is historical fiction so popular with readers? If you are interested in writing historical fiction, what do you need to know before you start? Panelists are Kathryn Heyman, Isolde Martyn, Justin Sheedy.

The Gloucester Writers Festival website www.gloucesterwritersfestival.com has details of the full programme, guest writers, workshops, The Poetry Sprint, Barbecue, Dinner and much more. Tickets can be purchased online, by phone, by mail or in person with a 10% early bird discount for day and weekend pass bookings received by April 14.

Enquiries to 6558 1208 or email info@gloucesterwritersfestival.com