

## **The Novel Writers Collective (group 1)**

We are a small group of writers in various stages of their manuscript. Most of us are beginners on our first draft, figuring things out as we go, but we do have a few people polishing their work for publishing. We cover a wide variety of genres and aim to support each other regardless of personal taste. We strive to create a comfortable and safe environment where all opinions are valid, and the writer can choose to use what they do or do not find valuable to their work. However, our goal is to **ALWAYS** make sure that the writer goes back to the page, not scare them away from writing again!

Each fortnight we gather at KSP Writers Centre to check-in on each other's progress, while 3 or 4 members will be given an opportunity to receive verbal feedback on up to 1500 words according to the pre-structured schedule. We use Dropbox, each person has a folder with their name during their designated week. This allows writers to present work online and gives the group ample time to read, reflect and leave written feedback before the fortnightly in-person discussions. All our schedules and other information is also available on Dropbox. We also have a WhatsApp group chat we can discuss writing and non-writing topics.

When joining our group, you are committing to giving comprehensive feedback each fortnight, (around 1-2hrs) and participating in discussions. However, we do know life can, sometimes, be very busy, so we always make sure that nobody feels pressure to submit or comment if they can't! Our Monday evenings usually work like this:

### ***6pm Welcome and catch up/check in.***

We take turns reflecting on our writing for the previous fortnight. Was there any breakthroughs? Did you meet a goal? Or did you not write at all? (That's ok too). Sometimes we will have this time to just write or catch up on feedback!

### ***6:30pm Feedback***

Each fortnight 3 or 4 members of the group will receive verbal feedback. They upload their work into their designated folder in Dropbox with their name or chapter title and words 'Original Copy' on Monday, the week prior, so that members have an opportunity to read, reflect and critic the work. We ask that this critic happens before the session designated for verbal feedback so that every writer gets equal time on their work and that all members are able to contribute to the discussion. However, if life gets busy, you can also just read the submitted words and discuss during the feedback time. We divide the time equally between the writers receiving feedback, usually 20-35mins, depending on the session. If you know you can't attend a session, you can always leave written feedback on the work.

### ***7:30pm Break.***

Time for a cup of tea and a good opportunity to pay the fee for the session. (\$12 Non-members, \$5 Members). Don't forget to give your cash or eftpos receipt to the facilitator. This break can sometimes happen later and depends on how the night is running and the discussions taking place. Usually, someone in the group brings snacks as well, though this isn't planned or expected, so feel free to bring something if you feel like it :)

### ***8:00pm Feedback (Continued)***

***9:00pm Drive Home Safely and See You Next Time :)***