

The Journeying Self: Travel and Identity
A creative workshop on travel and life writing
with Beth Yahp

Sat 31 July & Sun 1 August 2010

Location: TBC, Coonamble.
Time: 10am to 6pm.
Cost: \$80 [includes 2 days' tuition, morning and afternoon tea, workshop outline + course reader.]
Places are limited – so book early!

Course Description

This practical and popular writing course is for anyone interested in travel writing (journey narratives) and life writing (memoir) that is reflective and engaging, utilizing the skills of both fiction and personal narrative.

The course combines short presentations, discussion, writing exercises and workshops. You will share tips, techniques and practices to help you capture your ideas and experiences on paper. Basic writing craft will also be covered: description, character, point of view, writing emotions and states of mind.

About the Teacher

Beth Yahp, an incessant traveler, has published short fiction and travel/memoir articles in Australia, South-east Asia and Europe. She is the award-winning author of *The Crocodile Fury*, a novel, as well as a libretto, *Moon Spirit Feasting*, for composer Liza Lim, which won the APRA Award for Best Classical Composition in 2003. Beth has worked as an editor and taught creative writing for many years, including at the University of Sydney's Centre for Continuing Education and the American University of Paris. Beth is currently completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in travel and memoir writing at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Registrations: Send registration form and cheque to:
The Treasurer, Coonamble Arts Alive, 'Nabiac', Walgett Rd,
Coonamble, 2829.

Inquiries: Lee O'Connor (02) 68222517. Mob: 0428 222517.
Email: merowan@bigpond.com

*This writers' workshop is presented by Coonamble Arts Alive Inc
with support from Regional Arts NSW Country Arts Support Program.*

The Journeying Self - Travel & Life Writing

Workshop Program – Coonamble 2010

Day 1: Morning Session: Travellers and their Tales: Begin Writing Your Journey

- Introduction and overview of sessions: travel vs. journey; what is travel writing?
- The traveling self's outer and inner journeys, and how to capture them; the travel journal; the mind journal
- Eye to Page Strategies: selection, motivation, speed writing
- Writing Skills: Description 1: beginnings; setting a scene; new ways of seeing/telling; concrete detail

Day 1: Afternoon Session: Time Travel: Writing travel-related memoir

- Writing from memory
- Some research skills. Do I need to research what's already in my head/ heart? The journal as repository/ personal research tool.
- Telling the truth
- Mind to Page Strategies: what to write about? Keeping yourself and your reader interested
- Writing Skills: Description 2: character sketches; "They were alive once, what's happened to them now?"

Day 2: Morning Session: Border Crossings: Writing across cultures and genres

- Writing about place
- What influences the self who sees, who speaks? What is culture, what happens when we cross cultures?
- Thinking about audiences—do we need to?
- Ear to Page Strategies: listening like a child; being brave; asking stupid questions
- Writing Skills: point of view; making it believable

Day 2: Afternoon Session: Moments of Being: Writing Emotion and Experience

- Mapping the self's "moments of being"
- Intention—why the need to write your journey? Entertainment? Universal themes?
- Heart to Page Strategies: short-circuiting the way we're wired; listening with the heart's ear, writing with the mind's soul
- Writing Skills: writing about emotions and states of mind; show don't tell; synthesis of the self's outer and inner journeys

What to bring:

Pen and paper. [Computers are not encouraged.]

Lunch or money to buy it from nearby cafes. [fridge available]

Where to Stay:

Coonamble has 3 motels, 4 hotels and a caravan park.

<http://www.coonambleshire.nsw.gov.au/VisitingCoonamble/accommodation.html>

There may be billets available if needed. Just ask.

'The Journeying Self' - Travel & Life Writing

Registration Form – Coonamble 2010

Please book my place in the writing workshop on Saturday 31 July and Sunday 1 August 2010. My cheque for \$80 is enclosed.

Personal Details:

1. Name: _____

2. Postal Address: _____

3. Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

4. Fax: _____

5. Email: _____

For future planning please circle:

[Please note: All personal information is kept private and will only be used for planning future writing, or writing-related activities.]

6. I am/am not a member of a writing/arts/cultural group.

[Name of group: _____]

7. I found out about this workshop through:

- Email
- Internet
- Printed flyer
- Radio
- Newspaper advertising
- Other..._____

8. My suggestions for future writing activities:

Mail this form and your cheque to:

The Treasurer,
Coonamble Arts Alive,
'Nabiac', Walgett Rd,
Coonamble, NSW, 2829.