

Principles and Ways of Working



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Welcome to the Newstead Writers group. We are a supportive network meeting regularly at, and supported by, the Newstead Arts Hub.

We have written this guide to help you understand how we work together and to become part of the network. We ask that you to sign-in when you arrive at each SUAW session and to observe these guiding principles and practicalities

Principles

- We are self-organising; anyone of us may welcome new people or show them around the facilities, the available writing spots, and where the small fold up tables and the chairs are stored.
- We are a supportive and collaborative group. Many of us have built up friendships and often chat with each other outside of the group. Kindness towards each other is important to us.
- We offer no judgement on what people are writing or how they write, people share when and if they want to enter any conversation.
- We are committed to silent writing. Conversations arise only if people are comfortable at the time. We give each other permission to say, 'sorry I can't talk right now.'
- Some of us have been formally published, are self-publishing our work, and others are writing with no intention, or desire to be published. Genres include mystery, murder, romance, poetry, non-fiction, journals, articles, work related material and job applications! Our diversity is one of our strengths.

Practicalities

- At monthly Shut Up And Write (SUAW) sessions we write individually from 1pm and then break at around 2.30 or 3pm for a cuppa, then resume writing until 5pm. People arrive and leave at the time that suits them. Writers are asked to move quietly so as not to disturb others.
- At SUAW sessions, Writers may sit outside or inside in any of the rooms. If you want to share a room or sit with others, please check with who is there already, as everyone has a different need for, and understanding of, personal space when writing. We respect this as one of our important ways of working and supporting each other.
- Newstead Writers are invited to share ideas for events or other ways of working at our chat times, in our feedback book or email us – newsteadwriters@gmail.com.
- A small donation - gold coin or \$5 note - is appreciated each session to contribute to the costs of using the Hub space.
- Regular evening sessions, The Writing Life, are offered during the year from 6pm-7.30. These are opportunities for invited writers to share their experiences of writing and to workshop ideas. These events are generally ticketed and include refreshments. More details are available through the Arts Hub eNews, on the [Newstead Writers website](#), and via our regular emails to Newstead Writers.
- Newstead Writers are encouraged to become members of the [Arts Hub](#) to support this creative community space. As an Arts Hub member you receive benefits through discounts on ticketed events and venue hire, and invitations to special members' events.

Staying connected

- Newstead Writers has an email list we use to let everyone know about our upcoming SUAW sessions and events; contact details are not shared. Knowing the number and location of writers participating is helpful when Newstead Writers or the Arts Hub apply for grant funding.
- **Contact** Newstead Writers by email - newsteadwriters@gmail.com – or catch up with one of our coordinating group members – Leni, Paula, Chris, Dimity, Lesley or Laurel.