

Self-Publishing Your Manuscript

A one hour session at 3.15pm followed by a book launch

Palmerston North City Library

No door charge.

Palmerston North City Library
4 The Square
October 4th at 3.15pm-4.15pm

Book launch: 4.30-6pm
Stay for refreshments and
food. And help launch
Christine Toms' book,
Wind Down the Moon.

Writers are invited to bring
their manuscript on cd and
Heather will take them
home for a free appraisal.

Tough times in the publishing industry means most manuscripts by unknown authors will not be accepted by traditional publishers, leaving writers with just one option; if you want your work in print you might have to self-publish. There are some pitfalls and some can be avoided.

Discussion

The difference between editing and proofing; polishing your manuscript to its highest possible standard; ideal book layout for your target reader; the need for quality illustrations or photographs; manuscript submissions to traditional publishers or film companies; eye-catching front and back covers; printing costs nationally and internationally; book promotions and marketing; budgeting; recouping (it is to be hoped) your initial investment in your work; E-books; how to apply for author grants from Creative NZ; payments under Public Lending Right for books available in libraries.

Looking at writing

What happens in the first few pages and how important it is to get it right; expanding your characters so they are living, breathing beings; using dialogue as well as narration; graphic novels; finding a niche in the book market before you begin writing; entering your work in national or international internet competitions; building more complex plots into your stories; dual language books for children.

Selling your book

Book launch; finding a book rep; approaching major book wholesalers and retailers; selling to NZ libraries and schools; international sales; essential marketing tools; the use of internet for promotions.

Free manuscript appraisal

Writers are invited to bring along their manuscripts, preferably on a cd or a USB stick and Heather will take the work home for a free appraisal. Or email the first 30 pages.

On your manuscript, suggestions may be made in the first few pages. No charge and no obligation For example: Suggestions for rephrasing some sentences; removing excess words or paragraphs; changing sentences to minimise the use of passive words such as 'was', 'have' or 'had': showing not telling what's happening and painting word pictures; tense can be confusing; repetitious information about things such as the weather, although worded differently, normally should be avoided; dialogue as well as narration brings a story to life.

Music—Prose and lyrics: Occasionally, prose is received that resembles lyrics for songs. We are working now with a musician who writes varying types of music, hip-hop, rap, drumbeat, and has contact with other musicians and singers. More about this soon.