

the creative hub

te pokapū auaha *write now!*

Fiction & Memoir Course Outline & FAQ 2026-27

The Creative Hub	Director: John Cranna
Duration	2 x three month semesters, individual mentoring over summer.
Location	Course will be held at The Creative Hub in downtown Auckland. See our website for details, and a map of our location www.thecreativehub.net.nz Free parking is available near our teaching room.
Sessions	One x 3hr session per week, plus individual mentoring with an established published fiction / memoir writer or editor for 12 hours in addition to and separate from class time. Half hour rest / dinner break in the middle of session with kitchen / dining facilities.
Enrollment process	Please call us or email us if you would like to know more about the course. We are happy to answer any questions. Please register for the course via the Enrol button on our website.
Fees	See our website for the current fee. Interest free monthly payment terms over two years are available to all students.
Discount for Intro course graduates	Those who have completed our Introduction to Creative Writing course, or Three Day Writing Schools, receive a 10% discount on the course fee.

<p>Deposit to secure place. Withdrawal and refund policy</p>	<p>A \$480 deposit is required to secure your place on the course. Please see Terms and Conditions on our website for refund and withdrawal policy. The deposit can be paid via Stripe / Credit / Debit card during the enrollment process, or by direct bank transfer to our bank account. Account number and bank details are emailed to you when you complete online enrollment.</p>
<p>Facilitator(s)</p>	<p>Creative Hub Director John Cranna plus a number of established writer workshops</p>
<p>Structure and Course Content</p>	<p>First semester: writing exercises, craft tuition, discussion of published books, structural and craft analysis of student work, using Commendation, Recommendation, Commendation group method.</p> <p>The following issues will be addressed: narrative point of view, dialogue writing, the central dramatic question, authentic voice, good scene structure, macro structure or plot, dramatic development, characterisation, The Hero's Journey, professional work practice, the importance of journaling, reading programme for development of craft skills.</p> <p>The course will feature craft workshops by leading NZ fiction writers. The following NZ writers/publishers are currently running specific craft workshops on the Fiction & Memoir Writing Course at the Creative Hub: Eileen Merriman, Fiona Sussman, Judith White, Gary Henderson, Stephen Campbell (adapting fiction for film), Harriet Allan (former Penguin-Random House fiction publisher), Rose Carlyle, and others. Two of our tutors have won the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement – the nation's top literary honour.</p> <p>See our website www.thecreativehub.net.nz Tutors page for details of these writers and their professional CVs.</p>
<p>One-on-one mentoring by an established fiction writer</p>	<p>Each student will be matched to an established NZ fiction writer or editor for one-on-one mentoring during the course. See www.thecreativehub.net.nz '30 Week Fiction / Memoir Course', for a list of the current mentors on the course. These include a number of leading and well-known novelists / authors throughout New Zealand.</p>

Year Plan/Outcomes	At the beginning of the course, students will be assisted to create a project outline for completion during the course, e.g., a draft of a novel or collection of short stories, or memoir. You do not need to have a project planned when you start: we will assist you to settle on one. Students are also asked to keep a reading and writing journal during the course, which will assist in their writing development. Reading lists are distributed early in the course. At the end of the course, students will receive a written summary from an established fiction writer / editor in the form of a publishers reader's report that addresses the strengths and weaknesses of their manuscript. The focus will be on assisting the writer to improve the manuscript further. Students who complete the course will also receive a Certificate of Graduation from the Creative Hub Fiction / Memoir Course
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Background to Course

After several years research into successful writing course models, Hub Director John Cranna in consultation with the New Zealand Society of Authors Programme Manager, established a model which involves several key elements:

- A constant skilled facilitator who is an internationally published fiction author working with clients throughout the duration of the course.
- A number of leading authors and editors delivering craft / technique workshops
- Workshop leaders selected on the basis of their publishing success both nationally, and internationally.
- A reliable and stable pool of one-on-one mentors, selected from the leading ranks of published fiction / memoir authors and editors.
- Group feedback on a Commendation / Recommendation / Commendation basis, which maintains student morale.

An experienced fiction writer/facilitator working with the group over the course of the year helps establish an in-depth and continuous learning environment plus a high level of trust and mutual respect among the students in the group. All students in the course are working on fiction or memoir manuscripts. We don't include poets, screen writers, or playwrights on the course, because their forms require specialist tuition, which is different from that required by prose writers. John Cranna, the course facilitator was voted best Post-Graduate Teacher by students at AUT University. He has won many national writing awards, and the Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book.

Many of our graduates have published novels or won prizes in national writing or international awards since the course began in 2010. Over the last three years, many Creative Hub graduates have successfully published books. Graduates of this course recently won First, Second and Third Prizes in the Sunday Star Times Short Story Award, the best-known short story award in the country, plus the Sargeson Short Story Award of \$10,000.

Details of these many successes can be found on our website 'Reviews and Successes' page.

During the course, the essential elements of literary craft – point of view, characterisation, setting, dialogue, scene structure, authenticity of voice, dramatic development, beginnings and endings, and so on – are all taught organically by the facilitator through group work.

Discovery of the student's own unique literary voice is the main aim of the course.

Group feedback on student work is managed by the facilitator on the CRC model: that is, two commendations (positive feedback) for every recommendation (suggestion for improvement) which has been found to maximise group learning outcomes where work of a personal nature is being presented.

In addition to this, the Creative Hub writing course will feature a number of leading NZ authors running workshops on specific literary and craft subjects throughout the second semester.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I get a chance to discuss the course in person?

Students who have not completed the Introduction to Creative Writing course, or Three Day Fiction School discuss with the course leader before the semester begins their aspirations for the year, the nature of the project they are working on, and are given the opportunity to ask any questions they wish about the course before committing to the programme.

What is the course structure?

Two three-month semesters, plus one on one mentoring over the summer. Please refer to the course calendar on the Thirty Week Fiction / Memoir Course page on our website for session dates. This can be downloaded. There will be one weekly session of three hours.

Over the summer, students will have time to develop their manuscripts, while working one-on-one with an established NZ fiction writer or editor in a mentor/mentee relationship.

The weekly session will be chaired by John Cranna, and will include writing exercises to 'spread the wings', often of a fun or experimental nature, and discussion of student work.

Later in the course, two students per week circulate their work by email a week prior to class, and will then receive feedback on this work from the group. The process results in the steady fine-tuning of critical literary skills, which students can then apply to their own work.

At the end of the course students will be provided with a detailed report, in the form of a publishers reader's report, by their mentor, detailing both the strengths and areas for improvement in their manuscript.

How will mentoring work?

After you have been matched to a mentor, you will have regular contact with your mentor either by email, Zoom, or in person at a mutually negotiated and convenient time. The mentor will give you feedback on your creative work, and suggest areas for development or improvement.

Can I appeal my mentor?

Yes. If you do not feel comfortable with the mentor matched to you, we will match you to another mentor. We have considerable experience successfully matching writing students to mentors.

What qualification can I expect from the Creative Hub course by the end of the year?

Most works of fiction / memoirs take several years of work to reach publishable standard. A degree or any other qualification is not a passport to publication ... However, students who complete the year will be awarded a Higher Certificate in Fiction Writing from the Creative Hub, and will benefit from the networking, contacts, and advice they will receive from our experienced writer/mentors, and from our connections in the publishing industry.

Can I expect any other benefits from the Creative Hub course?

Writing groups who experience this model of working often bond into a strong mini-community of like-minded start-out writers who continue to offer each other support even after the completion of the taught year. This is a direct result of the trust and cohesion developed during the year. Students regularly report this as the single most valuable aspect of the year.

What advantages does an end-of-year 'reader's report' have?

The Creative Hub writing course focuses on helping develop a quality, readable manuscript. A Creative Hub end-of-year reader's report is based on the principles of a publisher's report, and will provide the student with a detailed list of strengths and weaknesses of the manuscript from a commercial/literary publishing point of view.

What next?!

The Creative Hub also offers an Advanced Fiction Course, designed specifically for graduates of our Thirty Week Fiction Course. This course is currently offered every two-three years.