



GCWA – Member Rights and Responsibilities

Welcome to the Gold Coast Writers' Association. We are delighted you have joined us and would like to share with you a little information about this body.

About the Gold Coast Writers' Association

In 1990, Ray and Mary McLaren founded the Gold Coast Writers' Association (GCWA) as 'Writers at the Fair'. It is a volunteer not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and encouraging writers in the Gold Coast/South-East Queensland/Northern NSW regions.

The GCWA's contribution towards furthering the recognition of writers in the region is significant and ongoing, including assisting with book launches, book sales, book reviews, marketing and promotion of local writers, and organising writing competitions through the website and social media channels.

Purpose

The GCWA provides a hub of information, instruction, and advice on many matters pertaining to the craft of writing from amateur to professional standards.

We hold monthly (general) meetings to encourage, educate, and support writers, and to recognise members' publication and competition successes. The meetings provide opportunities for writers and readers to network, engage, share learning experiences, and connect with a wider public audience. Published and unpublished attendees have the opportunity to meet other writers, hear motivational speakers and encourage newcomers to the craft of writing.

Each month, we strive to offer members the opportunity to hear and speak with industry professionals, including published authors, literary agents, editors, publishers, and media representatives. We run brief professional development sessions and can provide opportunities for members to launch books and practice their presentation and speaking skills.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, you will be able to access the recorded version online – but only if you are a GCWA subscribed member.

How you can be involved.

We would love to see you at our monthly meetings, which take place on the third Saturday of each month at Fradgley Hall (above the Burleigh Heads Library) commencing at 12.30pm. (Members: \$5; non-members: \$10). This fee covers an interesting and informative monthly workshop and guest presentations, along with afternoon tea and networking opportunities.

You have probably already found us on the web at www.goldcoastwriters.org. Our Member Portal allows you to view videos of some of our presenters.

The monthly 'eWriteabout' newsletter is available on the GCWA website to anyone who subscribes. It is full of information and updates, and our editor always welcomes contributions from members. There are also sales and marketing opportunities in the newsletter. (gcwa.editor@gmail.com)

We are also active on Facebook - just search for Gold Coast Writers' Association – where you can read about the 'writer of the week' and pick up other useful snippets. (<https://www.facebook.com/GoldCoastWritersAssociation>)

Governance and member Code of Conduct

As an incorporated body, the GCWA is guided by its Constitution. A voluntary committee of dedicated people with a strong desire to assist local writers manages the affairs of the GCWA. The committee members' skills and experience include a mixed range of professional occupations.

The Association aims to cooperate and collaborate with other writing organisations to increase opportunities for local writers, and offer Public Liability Insurance cover.

We urge members to follow some basic principles during meetings as follows:

- Extend respect and courtesy to all members, volunteers and the general public.
- Maintain privacy and confidentiality in your GCWA dealings.
- Avoid intentionally injuring the professional reputation or practice of another member.
- Refrain from using your relationship with the Association in such a manner as to state or imply an official accreditation or approval beyond the scope of membership of the Association and its aims, rules and policies.

If you identify a possible breach of this code, please bring it to the attention of a GCWA Committee member in person or in writing to the secretary: gcwa.executivesecretary@gmail.com or P.O. Box 441, Pacific Fair Q 4218.

The matter will be handled as stated in line with the provisions of the GCWA Constitution.

On a final note

Please remember that the smooth operation of the Gold Coast Writers' Association depends entirely on the contribution of its voluntary Committee Members, who will endeavour to deliver this wonderful support to the community.