

PROFILE



By
Pat Ritter

Writing is a passion for me. I need to write every day. It's something I need to do. Whether it's writing a short story; a manuscript or planning to write, I need to write.

It started in junior year, grade 10 when I attended Sandgate High School. Mr Imoff my English teacher told me I had a gift for writing - *I write the way I speak – which is unique*, he told me. I didn't understand at the time what he meant. Years later when I attended TAFE in my early thirties Bob O'Sullivan my Lecturer, told me exactly the same – *you have a gift for writing – you write the way you speak – it is unique*.

1988 Bob O'Sullivan co-authored my first book 'Closing The Gap'. It was a book to help parents improve communication with their teenage children. The Lions Clubs of Australia published the book and distributed 8000 copies throughout their communities. This was my first experience in writing a manuscript, publishing and public appearances. I thought how easy was this? I was in for a shock.

1990 aged 42 years I had a pacemaker implanted and fell into depression. Subsequently after a couple of years I climbed out of the big black hole. There were no books to read to help a patient survive the operation after the implantation of a pacemaker. I wrote and self-published 'How Could This Happen To Me' with the idea to help other recipients of pacemakers. The book has been successful.

2001 I wrote and self-published 'Hollywood' John McMullen Story, a book on the life of a celebrity in Queensland Harness Racing. The television programme 'In The Gig' presented me with 'An Achievement Award'. This was my first life story.

2003 I lost my wife, Olga to cancer. We'd been married 31 years. Prior to her untimely death we retired to Brooloo in the Mary Valley, I wanted to take my writing seriously. As a tribute to her life I wrote her life story. It is on my website www.patritter.com.au as a free book.

2004 I joined FAWQ (Fellowship of Australia Writers Queensland), QWC (Queensland Writers Centre), and ASA (The Australian Society Of Authors Limited) and began to attend writing workshops. The first workshop, life stories, was facilitated by Lesley Singh at Maleny Library. Later I completed a master class of life stories.

That same year I wrote and self published 'Confessions of an Alcoholic'. This book mirrored my life as an alcoholic. See website www.patritter.com.au for more details and reviews.

Tricia Eban, Scope Fiction Editor helped me with feedback on a number of short stories I sent to her. She has been more than helpful in a way of positive

feedback and straight talk of improvement. These stories are on my website under stories.

Rosemary Allan facilitated a writing course 'Writing From The Heart'. After completing her workshop, I learnt what the left and right side of the brain meant to a writer. It was another step in the ladder to become a writer.

Each year I attend Write Fest conducted by the Bundaberg Writers' Group. There I attend writing workshops and met other authors. It is an annual ritual to help with my writing.

In 2010 I joined the Pomona Writers Group we meet each Tuesday morning at Community House, Pomona at 9.30am.

The latest manuscript I have completed is a novel named *Dream Angel*. It's the story of my life. Before I began to write this story something intrigued me about significant events in my life. Why did certain things happen and at a particular time? As the story unfolds I take the reader on a journey of interest and adventure. Daily I post on Facebook one page from 'Dream Angel' under a group 'keeping up with my writing'. This has had a huge impact of interest to the readers.

I am a very lucky person to be a writer. There is not a moment goes by when an idea is not spinning around in my mind. Those ideas will one day become a novel.

Thank you

Pat Ritter
Author/Self Publisher