

WRITING DAREBIN GREEN SPACES | BY LUKE BEESLEY

Writing Darebin Green Spaces is a two-part creative writing workshop led by local writer and teacher Luke Beesley.

WORKSHOP ONE:

WHEN: Saturday 22 May, 12-2pm

WHERE: Darebin Parklands Gleeson Centre, at the very east of Separation St, Alphington (Melway 31 C9)

The first workshop explores Darebin Parklands' green space and its significance to the theme of *recovery*. This workshop encourages note taking, jotting and sketching based on mediative and sensory walking, pausing and listening. This fieldwork—which includes short writing exercises—focuses on overcoming barriers and writing freely and creatively. The class has the option to share their writing (though this is not compulsory).

WORKSHOP TWO:

WHEN: Saturday 29 May, 12-2pm

WHERE: Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, 189 High Street, Northcote

The project culminates in a second workshop at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre. The walk's sensory fragments are gathered-in and choreographed into a finished piece of story, memoir or poetry. The class workshops this writing: for students who choose to share their work, Luke facilitates—and participates in—gentle and constructive feedback.

COST: Free

BOOKINGS: To book [click here](#)

***Please note you must be available for both workshops.**

When we walk into a landscape to write, it becomes easier to write through the senses. When we observe directly and closely, we are more likely to write accurately with unclipped perception. It's also a meditative and rewarding way to reconnect or recover our connection to the landscape.

The focus here is crafting a completed piece of writing and exploring editing ideas, such as writing with clarity and economy. Luke offers writing exercises and tips to help participants sculpt and polish their draft.

A key part of my practice is that I like to draw and write songs and watch lots of movies, and I embrace the idea of this media getting tangled and influencing my writing.

I'm also a believer in the need to practise writing. The best way to improve is to write and read in our preferred genre—I'll talk about the myth of writers' block and the importance of a writing and reading routine.

Luke Beesley is an award-winning writer of poetry, short fiction and critique. His fifth book *Aqua Spinach* (2018) closed a trilogy including *Jam Sticky Vision* (2015) and *New Works on Paper* (2013), each published by Giramondo. His writing has been published internationally and translated into several languages. Luke holds a doctorate in Creative Writing and teaches creative writing at Deakin University. He lives in Thornbury.

You can read an example of Luke's work '*East Greenland*' [here](#). Based on walks along the Darebin Creek, Luke wrote this piece for the Darebin Arts project *This Place 2019*.