



Newsletter

February 2011

Aussie Heroes Series - March

The new *Aussie Heroes* historical series introduces junior readers to heroes who have made an important contribution to Australian society.



A stoic leader whose energy, resourcefulness and bravery saved many lives, Hazel's book on Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop explores why this wartime surgeon and rugby-player, is so well regarded.

Available for pre-release now from [New Frontier Publishers](#), "Weary" will be launched in March.

E-Books

Got your ipad or kindle ready?

A number of Hazel's titles are available now to download in **ebook** formats, with more to follow very shortly.

FEATURE

Collaboration and Co-Writing: How To Avoid Literary Divorce

Collaborating on a writing project can be satisfying and doubly productive. Two minds can achieve twice as much, in half the time and produce work of a higher quality. And in my experience.....a greater chance to **actually complete the project!**

But, how do you overcome the logistics of procrastination, priorities, distance, different writing styles and personalities?

Here are my top ten tips on how you can work together to create a successful co-writing partnership



Co-Authors Christine Anketell & Hazel, Hazel & Ryan Kennedy

1. Clarify your legal relationship at the beginning.

Sometimes it's genuinely difficult to remember later who thought of what. Especially if the project becomes very financially successful. So a signed agreement about co-rights early on solves later problems. Especially with e-rights and multimedia and as yet unvented formats.

So you can now start e-reading!



Young Adult E-Fiction:
f2m; the boy within Kindle Edition

E-Picture Book:
Plato the Platypus Plumber (Part Time) Kindle Edition

E-asy Reading:
Duckstar Kindle Edition

Stay tuned for more ebook releases shortly!

Anecdulous Writers

Do you weave anecdotes into your fact, faction and fiction works?

If so, you may have committed **anecdultery**.

Discover more about this creative technique, in the latest article in Hazel's [Aspiring Writer's Resource Library](#).

Click through to discover this and more 'how to' articles including [How to Write for Grandkids](#) and [Hints for Getting Published](#).

Quick Links

> There's a Hippopotamus on the silver screen: [Checkout the trailer for the upcoming Hippo movie from Pocket Bonfire Productions](#)

> f2m;the boy within has been nominated for the [Annual Lambda Literary Awards](#)

> [Authorpreneurship](#) seminars will be run by the [Australian Society of Authors](#) very soon. Stay tuned for more details and see what the seminar involves [here](#).

2. Whose name comes first?

It seems like something you can worry about later, but it is better to clarify the order of author names up front. It could be alphabetical, the more well known or subject relevant name first or even a pseudonym. If ghosting, clarify if your name is to be on! Whichever you decide, do it early in the project

3. Split the financials 50/50

Apart from any contract with a publisher, it's wise to have a 50/50 split with your co-author on any expenses and income relating to the project. The Australian Society of Authors has guidelines ([click here](#)).

4. Set a Timetable and stick to it

Set an achievable plan for researching, discussing, writing and editing together. Work out in advance how you will handle missed deadlines and monitor your progress. Allow time for publicity before and after the book is out.

5. Be vigilant about Version Control

One of the biggest problems of communal writing is ensuring that there is one master copy and you are not making changes to different drafts. Rename each draft and create a process – eg. once it is sent off you will not change the draft until it has come back from the other person.

6. Agree to defer to the other's strengths

Co-writing can be a creatively and emotionally charged process where individual opinions can create tension. At the beginning, identify each others strengths and skills, and agree to defer to these during the process.

7. Unify your Writing Styles

Sometimes different writing styles can result in disjointed, jumpy and patchy copy. Select one style and stick to it. It could be that one person writes, and the other edits.

8. Communicate Regularly

> [Read the first 12 pages of f2m;the boy within](#) at the online Readings store as it is now available as a Booki.sh.

Contact Hazel Edwards



Hazel Edwards writes for children, teenagers and adults and runs [how-to-write workshops](#) and creative **'author'**preneurship seminars.

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As with any relationship, communication is key. Phone, email and skype to ensure that you are constantly in touch, accountable to each other and heading in the same direction. Agree on how criticism will be handled.

9. Public profile

Decide who will be the 'face' or the 'voice' for marketing your work. Both? Always credit your co-writer too.

10. Have Fun!

Co-writing is an enjoyable process where you can learn from each other. Enjoy the process!

Hazel Edwards has co-written a number of titles including: [f2m:the boy within](#), [Difficult Personalities](#) and [Duckstar](#) collaborated with illustrators, directors and even family on satisfying creative projects.

OTHER ARTICLES

How to Read with your Kids

1. Choose books you like.

2. Have a big enough bag to carry the book with you.

3. Use audio books in the car.

4. Hold the book at an angle they can see.

5. Look at the illustrations, too. They are clues to the story.

6. Involve by asking questions such as, "What sort of exercise do you think he was doing in the picture?"

7. Accept all answers. Don't say, "No" or "That's wrong". Instead say, "Why do you think that?" The book belongs to the reader's imagination as well as the creator.

8. Sub-text is what goes on underneath the story. Some kids "get" it. Others do later.



9. Ask questions such as, "Why", "How" and "What do you think happened after the end of the story?"

10. If you have mixed-aged children, start a family serial using a junior chapter book. Encourage funny voices for the dialogue.

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