



Weaving Your Story

a writing retreat with **Cate Kennedy**

12 - 14 April 2024

Up the road from Eastern Beach Art House in Geelong, Victoria is the National Wool Museum, home to this beautiful historic loom. Just as many threads are woven together to create the intricate pattern of this particular rug on display, the warp and weft of your own life experience forms the shape and pattern of your own stories. This workshop retreat is a chance to explore the threads of your own stories, in all their complexity and particularity, and craft them into pieces to be proud of.

In this weekend workshop retreat, author **Cate Kennedy** will be working with a small group of writers interested in exploring how to weave the elements of their stories more satisfyingly and compellingly. Using techniques and crafting principles gathered from twenty years of teaching writers at all levels of practice, Cate will demonstrate how to bring the components of characterisation, voice, place, dialogue and imagery into your work, either building on your fictional storytelling or bringing these time-honoured techniques into the realm of life-writing to make it more vivid and compelling.

Cate Kennedy and **Ingrid Gaiotto** welcome you to this fully accommodated workshop retreat. The environment will be nurturing, supportive and stimulating, with morning guided writing sessions designed to shake loose new ideas and structured talks around key writing principles. In the afternoons, there will be opportunities to share your writing in a supportive, salon-style atmosphere, designed to encourage and inspire.

Come with a desire to explore what you can create through language, a willingness to restart a stalled project or generate ideas for a sparkling and surprising new one, and maybe a written extract or two from work already in progress. Cate has published across genres and her award-winning work informs her teaching style, whatever you are creating. She will provide directed and substantial accompanying material to all participants, full of prompts, tips and actionable writing tools so that you can focus on the generative inspiration of the workshop itself and use these notes in your writing journey long after this special weekend is over.

Allow yourself the luxury of an uninterrupted writing focus in this convivial atmosphere, delight in delicious local food and wine and enjoy an introduction to vibrant Geelong and the Eastern Beach waterfront.

An experienced tour operator, **Ingrid Gaiotto** has a passion for hospitality inspired by her Italian heritage. Ingrid will be your welcoming host during the workshop retreat and provide the food and drink for your enjoyment on the select days and evenings meals are provided.

The Workshop Facilitator



Cate Kennedy is a well-known writer whose work has been published, anthologised and broadcast internationally. Known as “the queen of the short story” in Australia, she has published two acclaimed story collections, both of which have featured for some years on the VCE English syllabus, as well as a novel (“The World Beneath”, 2009, Scribe) which won the People’s Choice Award in the NSW Premier’s Literary Prize, three collections of poetry and a travel memoir. Featured in publications as diverse as the New Yorker, the Harvard Review, Womankind magazine and The Saturday Paper, Cate has been shortlisted for the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal and the Stella Award, and recently won the Furphy Literary Award for her short story “Art and Life”. She is in high demand as a writing teacher and is currently on faculty at Pacific University’s low-residency Creative Writing Program in Oregon, U.S.A. She likes a sea view, an aperitivo, and a good yarn.

‘Cate’s wisdom and enthusiasm and sharing was extraordinary. More please!’

Advanced Short Story with Cate Kennedy participant

‘This was the best writing course I’ve done. The content was excellent, Cate’s feedback was encouraging and inspiring. I was very impressed.’

Writing Conflict with Cate Kennedy participant

Your Host



Ingrid Gaiotto is a hospitality & tourism entrepreneur, interior designer and educator, originally from Biella in Piedmont, Italy. Ingrid’s passion for Italy inspired In giro Tours, which offers unique and unforgettable travel experiences through the cultural symphony that is Italy, in the company of a local and away from the tourist trail. In giro has expanded to now also curate bespoke local experiences, tours and retreats. As host and guide, Ingrid is enthusiastically welcoming.

‘Ingrid, we had a wonderful trip with you and can’t thank you enough for the care and attention that you gave us all. Definitely the best organised trip that we have been on ... A truly memorable experience.’

Chris Spriggs, In giro Tour of Piemonte participant



Venue

Eastern Beach Art House is located on the spectacular Geelong waterfront, just one hour from Melbourne. It sits amidst a large, verdant garden and boasts tri-level views over Corio Bay, including Eastern Beach and the Royal Geelong Yacht Club marina. Built in 1909, this atmospheric Art Deco home was improved in 1947 and is now largely furnished with a rich collection of artworks and antiques from the former Brooklyn Arts hotel in Fitzroy, Melbourne. Participants in this workshop will have exclusive access to the boutique accommodation.

Program

Friday 12 April, 5pm start

After arrival and settling into your room, you are greeted with a traditional Italian *aperitivo*, followed by a fully catered dinner featuring local food and wine, and plenty of writerly conviviality to welcome all participants.

Saturday 13 April

The option of a morning walk for those who are early risers, or simply some quiet time for 'morning pages'. The workshop itself commences at 10.00am and finishes at 5.15pm, with a break for morning tea and lunch. Dinner is at your discretion, offering you a chance to explore some of the fabulous local restaurants.

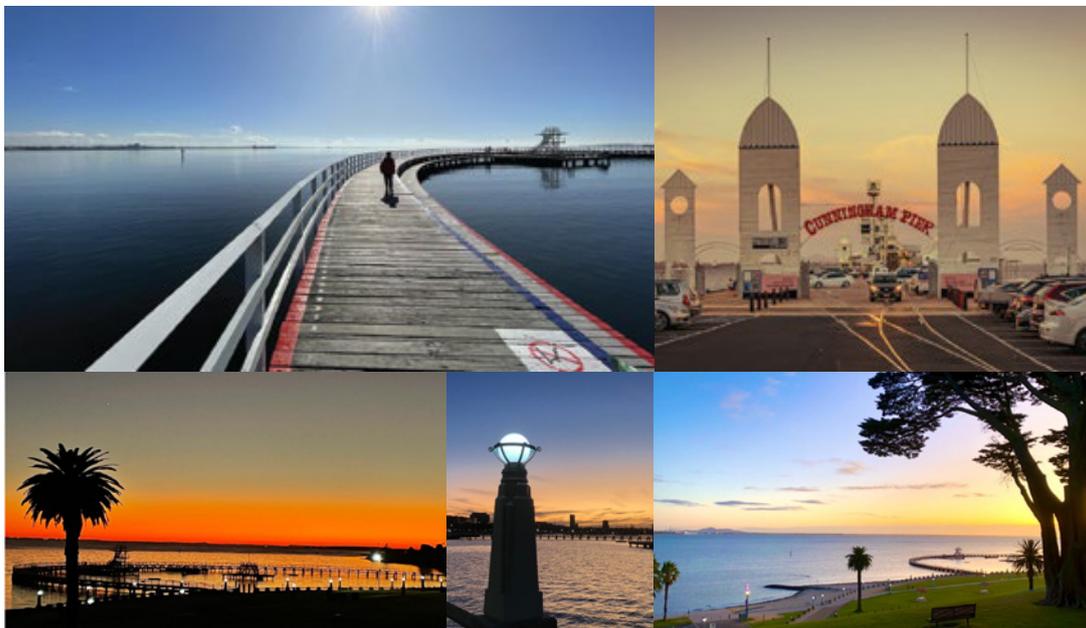
Sunday 14 April, 5pm finish

The workshop follows the same format, with a break for morning tea and lunch. Weather permitting, in the morning we'll engage in an immersive encounter with Geelong, guaranteed to stimulate ideas for your writing and a deeper experience of this historic town and, later, gather for convivial readings of our new work and reflection in the afternoon.

Accommodation

Eastern Beach Art House offers two tiers of guest accommodation across five bedrooms. Every room is large and comfortable, however, all rooms share a bathroom. The ground floor has two deluxe * rooms: the Salon and Bay View (ideal for single occupancy + \$40/night single supplement payable*). The upper floor offers two very comfortable rooms: the Front and South garrets (ideal for both single occupancy and twin share). The Undercroft is a quirky former cocktail bar that is fitted out as a bedroom for this workshop.

Experience Historic Geelong



Geelong is blessed with historic architecture, a stunning waterfront, beautiful botanic gardens, great restaurants and a thriving urban precinct and cultural scene - reclaiming and reshaping the city's old industrial landscape and its many grand old buildings.

Get a dose of sunshine with a stroll along the waterfront from Cunningham Pier to Eastern Beach, taking in public artworks, landscaped gardens, ice-cream parlours and fabulous restaurants and cafes. Take a dip in the sheltered beach pool, kick back in the promenade complex and restored pavilion right across the road at Eastern Beach, or walk in the renowned Botanical Gardens nearby.

Details

Non-residential – \$950pp (excludes accommodation/breakfast)

Residential (includes accommodation at Eastern Beach Art House)

Single occupancy bedroom* (shared bathroom) – \$1,350pp

****The Salon and Bay View Deluxe rooms incur a \$40/night single supplement – \$1,430pp.***

If you prefer to share a room with a writer friend, the cost is reduced to \$1,150pp.

The price includes an opening night aperitif, dinner and wine; accommodation/breakfast (for residential participants only), morning teas and lunches; and writing-related activities and handbooks. We will do our best to accommodate dietary preferences and requirements.

Please book early if you'd like to secure one of the deluxe rooms, as rooms will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Alternative nearby accommodation is also available. Please note that the boutique accommodation is in a historic building and rooms are accessed via stairs, with no lift available.

To ensure this writing workshop allows generous one-on-one mentoring and guided writing time, it is strictly limited to 8 people.

To book your place, please contact Ingrid Gaiotto on 0418 418 288 or email info@ingiro.com.au

We will email you a confirmation, a Booking Form and an invoice requesting payment in full (please refer to our terms and conditions below). If you make a booking to attend, you are agreeing to the following terms and conditions:

General Conditions

We're looking forward to an enriching and enjoyable retreat together and we reserve the right to ask any participant to leave the retreat if we consider their behaviour to be unacceptable or detrimental to the health or wellbeing of others on the retreat, without refund.

Payment

All bookings must be accompanied by a signed Booking Form and payment in full.

Cancellation

All cancellations must be made in writing to info@ingiro.com.au

If you have to cancel for medical reasons, you will be required to present a medical certificate and your payment will be refunded in full. Otherwise, if the cancellation is made up to 14 days before the workshop, we will refund your payment minus an administration fee of \$250. If you cancel less than 14 days before the retreat, the total payment made by you is non-refundable. If minimum numbers for the retreat are not reached, the retreat will be cancelled and your payment refunded in full.

“The pen is an instrument of discovery rather than just a recording implement... You're trying to discover something that you don't know exists, maybe something of value”. – Billy Collins

“And why don't you write? Write! Writing is for you, you are for you; your body is yours, take it.” – Hélène Cixous