

## Job Opportunities, near and far

- ◆ Jobs for all ages, all regions. Check your options.
- ◆ Plenty of exciting positions are listed inside.

## Why be a Writer, if writing isn't you?

- ◆ What does it take inside to be a writer? Have you reflected recently on your motivation? **P.6**

## Business Expenses, Travel and Tax

- ◆ Putting it all together to get some return out of travelling. A few quick tips for business trips. **P.8**



## Fiction Writing:

NZIBS Graduate **Megan Frith** shows how you can get there in the end, if you're willing to persist long enough.

She's just published her award winning book ***Trip 'n Die***.

See **P.3**

## The Queen's English

- ◆ Shall we continue to speak it? Would German be better? Or should we thoroughly confuse ourselves with a mix of both? What would Shakespeare say? A question of language **P.9**

## Character Qualities

- ◆ How much effort do you put into your characters? Here's 39 questions to ask. **P. 4**

## Tortoisegeivity

- ◆ How long does the average tortoise live? What about the REALLY big ones? **P. 5**

## Kate

- ◆ Obsessions. Will they get the better of you? A great short story. **P.12**

## Would you like to write in the residence of the late author Michael King?

Applications for WRITER IN RESIDENCE at Waikato University are now being invited. The residency runs for one calendar year, funded by the University of Waikato, Creative New Zealand, and the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa. Giving lectures is not part of the package.

You can apply for a position in either 2016 or 2017. It's open to poets, novelists, short story writers, dramatists, and writers of serious non-fiction. The appointment will be made on the basis of your record of publications of high quality.

Poet and historian **John Newton** is the 2014 writer in residence.

There is a stipend, plus occasional use of Michael King's house at Opoutere.

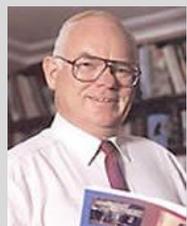
The Waikato University website has all the details.

<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/about/school-of-arts/english/writer-in-residence>

I hosted **two webinars** during October for the benefit of novice fiction writers.

Featured guests were successful authors who shared their knowledge, experience and tips for new writers.

Both webinars were recorded and (after some mechanical editing) they will be available for students and Graduates Club members to replay in your own time.



We can email you the link for these two webinars – **if you ask.**

Request: "Webinar - Novice Fiction Writers" in

the subject box when you email: [principal@nzibs.co.nz](mailto:principal@nzibs.co.nz)

If you can't wait until then, call me for a chat about your budding writing career. **0800-801994**

**Brian Morris** | Principal

## Our NZIBS website

You can learn new skills and make a new career for yourself.

**Please pass on our website URL to your friends.**

Thanks. Brian Morris

### Freelance Travel Writing & Photography:

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=40](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=40)

### Journalism & Non-Fiction Writing

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=38](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=38)

### Sports Journalism

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=60](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=60)

### Creative Writing

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=28](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=28)

### Romance Writing

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=58](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=58)

### Mystery & Thriller Writing

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=50](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=50)

### How to write poetry

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=44](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=44)

### Writing Stories for Children

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=83](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=83)

### Writing Short Stories

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=79](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=79)

### Writing Your First Novel

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=85](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=85)

### Internet Entrepreneur

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=1726](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=1726)

### Life Coaching

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=46](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=46)

### Digital Photography Beginners

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=30](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=30)

### Freelance Photography

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=130](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=130)

### Proofreading and Book Editing

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=56](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=56)

Information on any course we provide is available by telephone:

**Call this number: 0800 801994.**

You already have one foot on the first rung of life's success ladder. Climb your way to the stars.

Talk to **Carol Morris** | Registrar.

**Everyone supports the "No Surprises" policy when it applies to money and course fees.**

### We're no different at NZIBS.

When 2015 begins new students will notice course fees will have increased.

Mostly, these increases will be in line with inflation and extra costs. Text books and postage are classic higher cost items.

### Brian Morris, Principal:

*"Anyone\* who is thinking of enrolling for a NZIBS training course in 2015 would be wise to enrol during 2014.*

*The lower course fees will apply to all enrolments received this calendar year."*

**The final enrolment date for 2014 courses is 15 December.**

Increased fees will apply to enrolments for 2015 courses. These begin on 12 January.

*"What a difference a month makes."*

\* If you, your family, friends or work colleagues are considering up-skilling to meet new year work opportunities, please advise them:

**"You have an advantage if you enrol before 15 December."**

## Laughter and Life

Manslaughter is a terrible thing. But women's laughter is much worse.

**Often, proofreading is looking for what isn't there.**

Speech impediments wule, OK?

"I always wanted to be first on all lists, but I found it such aard vark."

The start of warm summer weather is always heralded by the peeling of belles.

Hay fever is much atchoo about nothing.

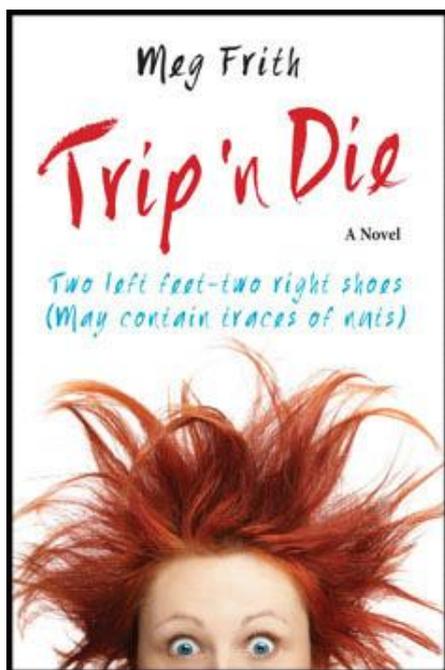
The audience noticed the lady cellist made her scherzo short.

## Megan Frith won't die wondering

Graduate **Megan Frith** has finally published her hilarious novel titled **Trip 'n Die**.

It's a story about an overweight administration clerk in her late twenties, who is looking for love and happiness.

Megan won the inaugural *Classics First Novel Award* with the manuscript for *Trip 'n Die*, a few lifetimes ago, back in 2008.



*"The shortlisted works were all of a high standard, but Megan Frith's novel stood out for its wit and sharpness and sheer 'sassiness'.*

*It's the work of a writer who has studied the genre carefully and has the ability to pull off a story which is convincing, funny and a joy to read."*

[Geoff Walker, Penguin]

Since then, she's studied Creative Writing at Massey University, and entered several short story competitions.

This year, Megan won the *Page & Blackmore Short Story Competition* for her work **Scars**.

*"From its intriguing beginning to its sinister ending, this story grips. 'Scars' is an imaginatively conceived and superbly executed story and is thus a worthy winner."*  
[Graeme Lay, Judge]

Meg's work is on Amazon:  
<http://www.amazon.com/Trip-Die-feet-two-contain-traces/dp/0473290782>

### She has a five star review:

*Loved this Trip 'n Die.... so sweet, funny, and it brought a wee tear to my eye. I look forward to reading more books by this talented author.*

### Meg writes: (October 2014):

*"Last week I signed my first book. It was a very weird experience. Afterwards, I was convinced I'd written all my e's the wrong way around, and penned something (God knows what) that didn't even make sense.*

*"Tomorrow is my first formal book signing experience. People will probably think I'm disco dancing, when really I'll be SHAKIN' IN MY MOON BOOTS."*



**Thesaurus.**



## Job Opportunities

[Social Media Adviser](#),  
University of Otago, Dunedin  
Take the lead in the university's social media space. Closes 17 Nov.

[Multimedia Designer/Journalist](#),  
skykiwi.com, Auckland  
Design and produce digitally delivered information, promotional content and instructional material. No closing date.

[Content Creator & Photographer](#),  
EverMe, Tauranga  
Requires photography, copywriting and proofing skills. Closes 6 Nov.

**If the closing date has passed, ask whether the position was filled. You could still be lucky.**

[Clinical Photographer](#),  
Capital and Coast DHB, Wellington  
Experience and skills working as a medical photographer are required. Closes 7 Nov.

[Photography Assistant](#),  
Expression Sessions, Auckland  
Full-time position; full training provided. No closing date.

[Executive Assistant](#), Randstad,  
Christchurch  
Proofread and format reports; manage client and customer information. No closing date.

[Employment Placement Consultant](#),  
In-Work NZ, Auckland and Wellington  
Coach, mentor and support jobseekers into successful employment outcomes. Closes 14 Nov.

[Online Editor](#), RadioLIVE, Auckland  
Maintain and update RadioLIVE websites and apps. Closes 7 Nov.

[Sub-Editor](#), Bauer Media, Auckland  
Write headlines and lively, accurate copy for NZ Woman's Weekly. Closes 19 Nov.

[Digital Marketeer](#), Employers & Manufacturers Assn., Auckland  
Seeking graphic/web designer with writing, editing and proofreading skills. No closing date.

[Head of Internal Communications](#),  
Kiwibank, Wellington  
Make sure the right messages are delivered at the right time. No closing date.

## Talk to Your Tutor

The last round of appointment times for 2014 is nearly finished, but there is still . . .

### Bartha Hill

Wednesday 5th November 9am – 5pm

Please phone **0508 428983** on **Guy Fawkes Day** and you will get through to Bartha.

If your tutor is . . .

### Brian Miller

Call the office to arrange a time.

To speak with **Principal Brian Morris**, call the office anytime, M-F.

## Websites to explore

### Famous Photos

Many of the images that changed the way we looked at the world.

<http://www.worldsfamousphotos.com/>



No . . . I don't wanna be your lunch!

### Last Words . . .

A list of the words they said last.

[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Last\\_words](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Last_words)

### Great Achievements

What makes an achievement a great one? It's somewhat subjective. But all these made a profound influence last century.

<http://www.greatachievements.org/>

## 39 key questions about your fictional characters

*NZIBS tutor Joan Rosier-Jones adapted these questions for New Zealand writers from WRITER - a working guide for new writers by Graeme Kinross-Smith.*

1 How do they speak? How does their voice sound? Do they have peculiar speech patterns?

2 Do they have a sense of humour? What makes them laugh?

3 What are the six activities they most enjoy?

4 What do they most fear?

5 How do they feel about each parent?

6 How - at present - do they regard their own death?

7 How do they react to the death of a friend? Or to a stranger's death?

8 What are their six most important educative experiences?

9 What are their major faults?

10 What actions are they morally incapable of performing?

11 What part does sex play in their lives?

12 Which of their achievements give them most pride?

13 Who are their mentors? Why these people?

14 How do others see them?

15 Are they compassionate? Cynical?

16 What characteristics do they dislike in others?

17 What are the most important things to them?

18 How idealistic are they?

19 How tolerant are they?

20 How do they regard information, knowledge and wisdom?

21 How important is food to them?

22 How materialistic are they?

23 What do they consider to be the meaning of life?

24 In what situations have they acted with moral courage?

25 How impulsive are they?

26 Have they travelled widely? Where?

27 Are they physically active?

28 How do they dress?

29 What do they consider the most dangerous ideas in the world?

30 What is the most hopeful thing happening in their world?

31 Do they work at changing themselves or their behaviour?

32 How are they going to change?

33 Do they contribute to society? In what ways?

34 How many close friends do they have?

35 How do they regard ageing?

36 How involved are they with their family - immediate and extended?

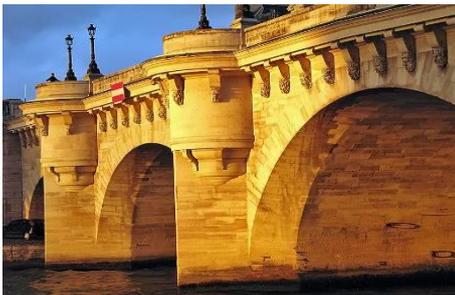
37 Do they make up their minds easily? Do they change their mind just as easily?

38 Who in their circle do they most dislike? Why?

39 Who in their circle do they most admire? Why?



Go here: <http://www.swf.org.au/>



The Pont Neuf is the oldest bridge across the Seine.

*Pont neuf* means “new bridge.”



## Coincidences . . .

The first person to die in the construction of the Hoover Dam was J.G. Tierney, a surveyor who drowned in the Colorado River on 20 December 1922.

Thirteen years later, to the day, his son Patrick became the last man to die when he fell from one of the intake towers.

The first conscript in World War II was the son of the first conscript in World War I.

Alden C. Flagg Jr., of Boston, held the first number drawn in the U.S. peacetime draft lottery of 1940.

His father, Alden C. Flagg, had drawn first in the draft of 1917.

## Good Health; Long Life

When Captain Cook visited Tonga in 1777, he gave a tortoise to the royal family as a gift.

They named it Tu'i Malila.

Tongans must be good with tortoises, because Tu'i lived on through the French Revolution, and through the Napoleonic Wars, the invention of the steam engine and telegraph, the Treaty of Waitangi, the American Civil War, the dedication of the Statue of Liberty, Queen Victoria's reign, Einstein's relativity, the Model T Ford, the sinking of the Titanic . . .

Tu'i lived through World War I, the Russian Revolution, the Great Depression, the Spanish Civil War, NZ's first Labour Government, World War II, the founding of the United Nations, the breaking of the sound barrier, the Korean War, the first nuclear submarine, the Cuban missile crisis, and the advent of television into New Zealand, dying finally in 1965 at age 188.

What an event-filled lifetime!

## Timing is everything

The best photographs capture a moment perfectly. More than subject or lighting, timing makes a picture. And lighting and subject are made breathtaking by timing.

## Job Opportunities

[Reporter](#),  
Eastern Courier, Auckland  
Roll up your sleeves, get out of the office and find fresh stories.  
Closes 16 Nov.

[Communications Assistant](#),  
Horticulture NZ, Wellington  
Must be able to write fast, clearly and accurately – and cope if it gets corrected, changed or cut.  
Closes 7 Nov.

[Journalists](#),  
Freed, Auckland  
Multiple roles available – from junior reporters to video editors, data journalists and drone operators.  
No closing date.

[Photography Assistants](#),  
Magic Memories, Auckland  
Experience in photography would be highly regarded but not essential.  
No closing date.

[Deputy Editor](#), 3News.co.nz,  
Auckland  
Write breaking news stories, original news stories and features using a variety of media.  
No closing date.

[Communications Contractor](#),  
Beyond Recruitment, Wellington  
Understanding of strategic networking in a political-cultural environment will be critical.  
No closing date.

[Digital Communications Specialist](#), APX Travel  
Management, Wellington  
Develop and deliver a social media and digital communications strategy.  
No closing date.

[Communications & Marketing Coordinator](#),  
St Vincent de Paul, Wellington  
Increase awareness, understanding, and support among target audiences.  
No closing date.

[Studio Producer](#),  
Yahoo! NZ, Auckland  
Produce creative, editorially integrated advertising solutions across Yahoo! NZ media properties.  
No closing date.

## Organisations

### Society of Authors

The NZ Society of Authors works in the interests of authors in New Zealand. The Society is guided by values of fairness, accountability and responsiveness.

The mission of the Society is to support the interests of all writers in New Zealand, and the communities they serve.

**Join here:** (Student rate applies)

<http://www.authors.org.nz/>

**How to get a job** is an ebook you'll find at Amazon.com This short \$5 book gives you all the steps for getting a job. Age 16 to 65. Click here for the book. <http://tinyurl.com/pgvgjky> Call 0800-801994 for a chat about your new career options.

### Society For Poets

Membership of the New Zealand Poetry Society entitles you to their bimonthly magazine and reduced entry fees in their competitions.

Several other benefits include a **members-only** website page.

<http://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/join>

### New Zealand Freelance Writers' Association

Have you found their site? If you haven't found a suitable writer's group locally, look online. Here's where you can go to connect with other writers – wherever you live.

<http://www.nzfreelancewriters.org.nz/>

### Romance Writers of NZ

This non-profit organisation was founded in 1990 by **Jean Drew** (NZIBS tutor). RWNZ has over 260 members (published and unpublished writers) from NZ, Australia, USA, UK and SA.

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/>

**MEDIA caps** for NZIBS graduates

- ❖ Journalist,
- ❖ Sports Journalist
- ❖ Photographer
- ❖ Travel Writer.

If you'd like one, please send \$10 and a letter detailing your name, postal address and former student number. One size fits all.



## Why be a Writer?

Charles Bukowski, a poet first published in the 1940s, said this about writing. (He didn't believe in using Capital Letters.)

### So You Want To Be A Writer

if it doesn't come bursting out of you in spite of everything, don't do it. unless it comes unmasked out of your heart and your mind and your mouth and your gut, don't do it.

if you have to sit for hours staring at your computer screen or hunched over your typewriter searching for words, don't do it.

if you're doing it for money or fame, don't do it.

if you're doing it because you want women in your bed, don't do it.

if you have to sit there and rewrite it again and again, don't do it.

if it's hard work just thinking about doing it, don't do it.

if you're trying to write like somebody else, forget about it.

if you have to wait for it to roar out of you, then wait patiently.

if it never does roar out of you, do something else.

if you first have to read it to your wife or your girlfriend or your boyfriend or your parents or to anybody at all, (to get their approval) you're not ready.

don't be like so many writers, don't be like so many thousands of people who call themselves writers, don't be dull and boring and pretentious, don't be consumed with self-love.

the libraries of the world have yawned themselves to sleep over your kind.

don't add to that.

don't do it.

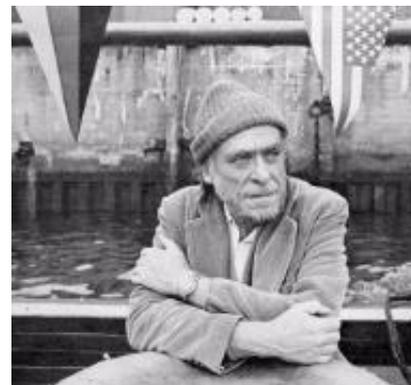
unless it comes out of your soul like a rocket, unless being still would drive you to madness or suicide or murder, don't do it.

unless the sun inside you is burning your gut, don't do it.

when it is truly time, and if you have been chosen, it will do it by itself and it will keep on doing it until you die or it dies in you.

there is no other way.

and there never was.



Charles Bukowski, 1920-1994

Generally, you'll be a writer because you do not want to be anything else. You are as driven to write as you are driven to breathe.

And when you've realised you have the passion for it and decide you want to make money at it . . .

You'll want to know what writing for a living is really all about.

Firstly, you can live and work anywhere. These days, you can even live in Mongolia – if there's such a place anymore. You don't have to arise before dawn to commute in the rain and slurp coffee so you're at your desk before eight am.

While you need discipline to make it as a writer, you can still choose when to work, as there are few days when you actually have to BE some place. Unless you've chosen to do magazine journalism with set interviews and fixed deadlines.

Time flexibility is one of the big advantages of earning as you write.

Secondly, you don't have to quit your old job until you've got a steady income from your pen or computer. Transition quietly.

You might not write seven books and make a billion dollars in royalties, like JK Rowling, but then just a few years ago, no-one had even heard of her, or her characters. So what if they haven't heard of you yet? Say "They will!"

If you choose to write fiction, you'll create your own world, where all is as nice or as nasty as you wish. You can imagine it just the way you want it.

Travel writers and bloggers about life write a lot of 'facts' – but it's a fact that all reported facts are coloured by their reporter.

You'll put your own spin on life, and the more unique your view, the faster you'll become known.

Writing can be a wonderful way to spend time. And once you've done it for a while, it's someone, somewhere, has read your words and been informed, or entertained. Or they will.

Your story – fact or fiction – will arouse human emotions, perhaps leaving your reader changed forever in a minor, or major way.

Writing is a career, but it is also a way of life. To be successful we have to incorporate writing into our daily schedule, instead of always waiting for the perfect moment.

If you think you are too busy to write, make a list of everything you do in a day.

If you are at work from 8am to 5pm, maybe you could write during your lunch break. Stay at home parents can sneak in some writing when the kids are napping.

Take control of your life by creating a yearly plan for your writing career.

If finding time is a struggle, check your schedule and look for snippets of time you could use for writing. What can you eliminate?

Get up one hour earlier than usual. Go to bed an hour later. What activities (like TV) could you reduce or give up completely?

Stop making excuses and just begin.

**There is never going to be a better time than today, starting right now.**

A few hundred words a day adds up to quite a number over a whole year. Which year will you begin?

Start writing the novel you've been dreaming about. Decide on one article idea and start researching the topic; start writing a draft. Just begin.

If you yearn to write, then write! Write, and let it come out of your soul like a rocket!

### Tired of commuter traffic?

Sick of spending money on petrol, parking, bus fares, train tickets every week . . . plus \$25 a day on lunch, coffee, drinks after work? What a waste of time!

**CHANGE GEAR! Work at home.**

**Be an Internet Entrepreneur**

[http://nzibs.co.nz/?page\\_id=1726](http://nzibs.co.nz/?page_id=1726)

**Pleas Node:  
The whirled needs  
moor proof reed  
hearse. Aptly now!**



Budget Apple. No Spell Checker.

**SHOPLIFTERS WILL  
BE PROSTITUTED**

Just another one of the risks.



You can hunt animals too.



Seems English is not compulsory.



Believe in your chives, man. Next time choose a tattooist who stayed in school long enough.

## Job Opportunities

[Graphic Designer / Marketing Assistant](#),

Professionals Redcoats, Wellington  
Duties include copywriting, proofreading and preparation of marketing materials.  
No closing date.

[PR Graduate Role](#),

Hotwire, Auckland  
Must be an excellent writer and strong all-round communicator.  
Closes 7 Nov.

[Social Media Advisor](#),

JacksonStone, Wellington  
Drive the social media strategy of Sport New Zealand.  
Closes 5 Nov.

[Business Editor](#),

Yahoo! NZ, Auckland  
Requires an editorial background with a good understanding of what makes a compelling story.  
No closing date.

**All these jobs were listed on the Student Discussion Board SDB when first found. That may have been a week ago! We publish fresh jobs every three days.**

Has the date expired? Ask anyway!

[Content Manager](#),

Flintfox, Auckland  
Seeking a creative writer with an understanding of the fundamentals of good narrative.  
No closing date.

[Communications Advisor \(Media\)](#),

Auditor-General, Wellington  
Ideally, you'll have previous media liaison experience or have worked as a journalist.  
Closes 9 Nov.

[Creative Writer & Marketing Specialist](#),

Straker Translations, Auckland  
Help refine their marketing message.  
No closing date.

[Child Care Photography](#),

Little Images, Auckland  
Turn your interest or hobby into a photography business as part of this international franchise.  
No closing date.

## Online Openings

### for editors and proofreaders

When searching online, search for **variations** of what you want:

- **Proofreading**
- **Proof reading**
- **Book editing**
- **Boook editting**
- **Editing / Editor**
- **Manuscript correcting**

Be creative. Look for spelling variations. Even misspellings.

### Craigslist.org

Check this international billboard of opportunities, jobs etc.

<http://auckland.craigslist.org/>

<http://radiostationworld.com/>

RadioStationWorld is an informational directory dealing with radio broadcasters worldwide.

We depend on many people around the world to help us keep the RadioStationWorld listings up to date. (And much thanks to those who take time to help keep our information up-to-date!)

Some of the features you will find on this site include listings of local radio stations on the web, radio stations that offer streaming webcast services, and in depth listings of local radio broadcast stations for many countries, **including New Zealand.**

### Online Writing Jobs

<http://www.online-writing-jobs.com/jobs/freelance-proofreading-jobs.php>

### Virtual Vocations

The whole spectrum of vocations is here – so use a targeted search to find your specialty.

<http://www.virtualvocations.com/jobs>

You'll probably have better English than the boss.

### iFreelance

Advertise your services here:

<http://www.ifreelance.com/>

### Freelance Writing Gigs

Online references, contract jobs and plenty of contacts.

<http://FreelanceWritingGigs.com>

## How to make a business trip tax deductible

Is it possible to 'write off' your travel against your business, as many others seem to do?

It is, and it's a legitimate way to reduce your tax liability if you organise your trips so the business events are recorded and can be seen to have a definite business-related purpose.

**Be sure to consult your advisors before doing in-depth planning**, to ensure you take advantage of the deductions open to you for legitimate business expenses.

**Keep records on your travels**, so you don't lose out through not having sufficient proof of the expenses you've incurred.

### 1. Run seminars

You probably have an email list or customer database, so you can use it to advertise your travel destinations among existing clients or fans.

It's a good way to promote yourself, and your writing or business. You'll make new contacts, and probably find new business, and your costs can be all claimed as acceptable business expenses.

### 2. Meet with clients

Organise seminars or forums as an interface with your clients, and use the opportunity to either sell more services to them, or train them in using the services they have already bought.

These meetings are with your existing contacts, so they can be organised very quickly and don't need the amount of set-up a seminar for prospects would require.

### 3. Compile Reports

When you go on any trip, think of material you could gather that might be helpful to your client base, or your business or writing in general.

Think of questions you could research the answers to – and then write the report on your findings when you return.

Such reports make excellent additions to your product range, or as giveaways to enhance your service to existing clients.

### 4. Organise focus groups

Getting feedback from users of your products or services helps develop better solutions.

Develop a contact in the places you're planning to spend time, and put on a lunch or dinner to encourage interested prospective clients to attend.

You can promote these events as 'no pitch', rather as a discussion about . . . whatever your area of expertise encompasses.

### 5. Promote a book

Do you have your own book? Of course, if you write fiction, you'll have several, maybe some short stories, so you can organise a little library promotion.

If you have a non-fiction book on an aspect of your business, you can offer a talk about your subject to interested groups, perhaps in conjunction with local media or a specialty bookshop. □

**One spelling mistake can destroy your life.**

**A husband sent this to his wife:**

**"I'm having a wonderful time.**

**Wish you were her."**

## Language is just a bunch of letters . . .

The European Commission recently announced an agreement whereby English will be the official language of the European Union rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, the British Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a 5-year phase-in plan.

During this time, the language will be known as 'Euro-English'.

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c". Certainly, this will make the sivil servants jump with joy. The hard "c" will be dropped in favour of "k". This should klear up konfursion, and keyboards kan have one fewer letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced with "f". This will make words like fotograf 20% shorter.

In the 3rd year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling.

Also, al wil agre that the horibl mes of the silent "e" in the languag is disgrasful and it should go away.

By the 4th yer people will be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with "z" and "w" with "v".

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and after ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reil sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu undrstnd ech oza. Ze drem of a unitd urop vil finali kum tru.

Und efter ze fifz yer, ve vil al be speking German like zey vunted in ze forst plas.

If zis mad you smil, pleas pas on to oza pepl. (Yeah, right!)

## A Heist

*At Amsterdam, in a street called the Wood Market, recently lived a man who was curious about keeping fowls.*

*One of his hens, though in the midst of summer, had several days stopped yielding her usual produce, and yet made her usual cackling.*

*He searched the nest but could not find even the shell of an egg. He resolved to watch her closely.*

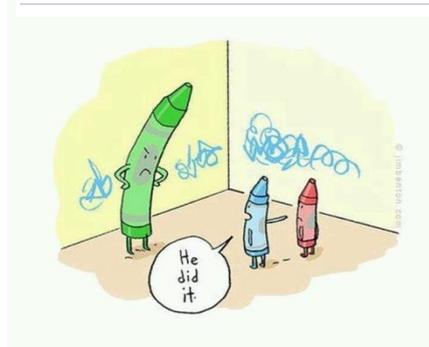
*Accordingly, the next day, he placed himself in a situation to be able to observe her motions minutely.*

*To his great surprise he saw her discharge her egg, but no sooner was she off the nest, than three rats made their appearance.*

*One of them immediately laid himself on his back while the others rolled the egg upon his belly, which he clasped between his legs, and held it firmly; the other two laid hold of his tail, and gently dragged him out of sight.*

*This wonderful sagacity was exhibited for several days to some curious observers.*

London Globe, quoted in  
*The Retrospective Review*, 1826



## Job Opportunities

[Photographer](#),  
Open2view, Hawke's Bay  
Franchise and contract  
opportunities in real estate  
photography.  
No closing date.

[Digital Marketing Specialist](#),  
Fletcher Building, Auckland  
Champion Firth's digital, content  
and social media marketing  
strategies.  
No closing date.

[Senior Researcher](#),  
TVNZ, Auckland  
Research and create stories for  
Good Morning programme.  
No closing date

[Graduate Editorial Writer](#),  
Castleford Media, Auckland  
Research and write a wide  
selection of editorial content.  
No closing date.

[Marketing Assistant/Proofreader](#),  
SaleFinder, Auckland  
Work on digital catalogue  
campaigns for well known  
retailers.  
No closing date.

[Communications Manager](#),  
Farrow Jamieson, Auckland  
Develop the strategy to make the  
company the "go to" brand for  
media commentary.  
No closing date.

[Family Portrait Photographer](#),  
Red Photography, Auckland  
Seeking a part-time weekend  
photographer.  
No closing date.

[Graduate Graphic/Web Designer,  
Marketing & Web Production  
Creative](#); Sunstone, Christchurch  
Graphic design, script writing,  
photography, social media, etc.  
No closing date.

[Marketing and Digital Content  
Coordinator](#), NZDF, Wellington  
A passion for social media and  
creating engaging content would  
be advantageous.  
Closes 7 Nov.

[Communications Officer](#),  
NZ Tertiary College, Auckland  
Support the production and  
sharing of college information.  
No closing date.

## International Writers' Workshop

Meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, February to November inclusive, at the Lake House Arts Centre, Takapuna, Auckland.  
<http://www.iww.co.nz/>

## Hibiscus Coast Writers

Members enjoy workshops and six competitions a year including poetry, short stories, drama and non-fiction. Meet local writers.  
<http://hibiscuscoastwriters.weebly.com/>

## Map makers needed a proofreader

by Jack May

In 1850 a British expeditionary ship was investigating the coast of Alaska.

As they sailed around the Seward Peninsula the captain was advised of a headland which was not named on his navigation map.

He wrote in his log “? Name”.

Later, a British Admiralty cartographer misread the captain's handwriting and marked the headland “Cape Nome” on the map he was making. He read the question mark as a C for cape.

He misread o for a.

Thus Nome got its name.

## Photography Clubs

They are everywhere - nationwide. Photography clubs keep you up to date with events, seminars, competitions, new gear and more. NZ Photographic Society has details:  
[http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs\\_map.html](http://www.photography.org.nz/clubs_map.html)

## Kiwi Write 4 Kids

Kiwi Write4Kidz is an organisation for adults who like to write stories for children. If you want to learn more about technique, you can hear it direct from the mouths of the finest Kiwi children's authors.  
<http://www.kiwiwrite4kidz.co.nz/>

## Grammar walks into a bar

**\*Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They drink. They leave.**

**A gerund and an infinitive walk into a bar, drinking a drink.**

\*The past, the present, and the future walked into a bar. It was tense.

**\*A synonym ambles quite slowly into a pub.**

\*A gerund and an infinitive walk into a bar, drinking to drink.

**A dangling modifier walks into a bar. After finishing a drink, the bartender asks it to leave.**

\*A group of homophones wok inn two a bar.

\*A comma splice walks into a bar, it has a drink and then leaves.

**\*The bar was walked into by the passive voice.**

\* Two Quotation marks "walk into" a bar.

**\*A run on sentence walks into a bar it is thirsty.**

\*A hyperbole totally ripped into this bar and destroyed everything.

\*A Question mark walks into a bar?

## A library with no books; an opera house with no stage



The Haskell Free Library and Opera House straddles the international border between Derby Line, Vermont, and Stanstead, Quebec. The building was built in the first years of the twentieth century as a gesture of goodwill between two halves of a community divided by the border, and deliberately sited across the line, which is painted inside on the floor.

The library's front door is in the United States, but the circulation desk and all of the books are in Canada. Live theatre is performed on a Canadian stage before an American audience. Hence it's the only library in the U.S. with no books, the only opera house in the U.S. with no stage, and the only library in Canada with no entrance.

## Competitions



### Have a go! 😊

For details of all competitions, click the links and join in!

**Winners' names are posted on the SDB after the competitions are judged at each month's end.**

**See the competitions here:**

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=11>

**Photography competitions:**

<http://nzibs.org/forums/forumdisplay.php?f=4>

### Set up your own Internet business,

selling information or stuff worldwide. Live anywhere.

**Start with \$1.** Click here > <http://nzibs.co.nz/internet-entrepreneur/>

## Robert V

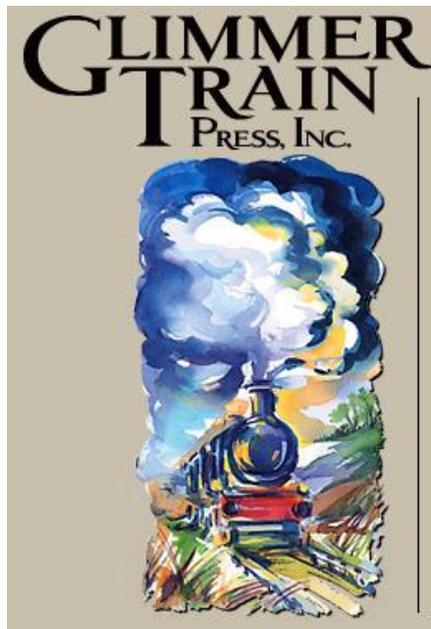
### Photography tutor

If you're sending in photos for assignments, or for challenges or competitions, please remember to give these important details:

- **Aperture setting – including why you chose that one**
- **Shutter speed – including why you chose that one**

The aperture and the shutter speed are the two most important aspects of making a photograph so they deserve serious consideration.

The photography tutor can help you better if you give reasons for choosing specific settings.



## New Writer Award

This category is open to emerging writers whose fiction has not appeared in any print publication with a circulation over 5000.

(Seven of the last eight first place New Writer winners have been the authors' first print publications.)

Winners and finalists will be announced in February.

<http://www.glimmertrainpress.com/writer/html/index2.asp>



## Job Opportunities

[Marketing Coordinator,](#)

RWR Executive, Auckland  
Are you well versed in marketing, PR and advertising for fashion brands? Apply. No closing date.

[Finance Editor,](#) Yahoo NZ, Auckland. Keep users informed by breaking finance stories. No closing date.

[Photographer,](#)

Open2view, Hawke's Bay Franchise and contract opportunities in real estate photography. No closing date.

[Flexible Contract Work for Talented Writers,](#) Auckland

Seeking versatile copywriter to join the team on a contract / freelance basis. Closes 7 Nov.

**If the closing date has passed, ask whether the position was filled. You could still be lucky.**

[Marketing and Communications Support,](#) Auckland

Seeking an influential communicator with excellent writing skills. Closes 10 Nov.

[Marketing Assistant,](#) Enterprise Recruitment, Christchurch  
Creative copywriting and editing will be the lion's share of your work. No closing date.

[Web Content Editor,](#)

Kinetic Recruitment, Auckland  
Edit and proofread content and ensure it drives engagement. No closing date.

[Senior Business Journalist,](#)

Key Media, Auckland  
Write daily news and drive editorial strategy online. No closing date.

[Canyoning Photographer / Videographer,](#) canyoning.co.nz, Otago. Photograph and film customers in a canyon environment using your own equipment. No closing date.

[Photographic Retail Sales & Service,](#) Snapshot, Hamilton  
Seeking a sales professional to use their great customer service skills along with their photographic knowledge. No closing date.

## Kate

by Doug Paul Case

Reproduced for educational purposes.

Five years ago Kate Mulgrew's lawyers slapped me with a restraining order.

But that hasn't stopped me from attending every *Star Trek* convention in the tri-state area wearing full Klingon regalia, or from waiting in line to get her autograph, or from trying to take her back to my apartment.

I realised I had to have her, couldn't possibly live without her, a few years into my marriage, the first time she stared down a Kazon warship in the Delta Quadrant and said, "Fire."

Let's get this out of the way: I know Kate Mulgrew isn't actually Captain Kathryn Janeway from *Star Trek: Voyager*. I know she's an actor. That's not the point.

The point is she's the only woman to ever sit in the captain's chair, she was the classiest woman on any sci-fi show from the 1990s, she had a three-episode guest role on *Cheers*, and when she gets that stern look on her face, like right before she's going to destroy your little ship because you're nothing but a complete pain in her ass, her eyes narrow and her nose flares and her tone gets low and even then she remembers to enunciate all her syllables, so "fire" become "fi-er" and that gives the enemy just enough time to realise he's toast before the boom, before even his mother wouldn't recognise him.

Imagine what you'd think about.

I'd think about the two cardboard cutouts of Kate I keep in my kitchen, one from the first season and one from the last. They've kept me company since Marla left; kept me sane.

I'd think about the complete VHS box set sitting on top of my television, that Kate signed before I had to dress up to see her. And about that day seven years ago when my wife left me just hours before I had to leave for the airport, to fly to the convention in

Topeka where Kate was scheduled to appear and give a talk on the philosophy of the Borg hive mind.

I had the perfect question to ask her, about how America is just another hive and what that means when you consider her legions of adoring fans.

Aren't we just like the Borg unimatrices?

These are the kinds of theories Marla and I used to stay up all night debating. The kinds of theories that helped me fall in love.

I'd basically finished packing—picked out my uniform and was searching for my rank pips, which I'm always losing even though they're supposed to stay on top of my dresser—when my wife tells me she can't take my 'silly little hobby' anymore, that it's 'ruined her life' and 'prevented us from having a family', and that I had to choose between the conventions and her.

I didn't understand.

We never would have met without *Star Trek* and she couldn't just start blaming all our problems on it like that. And really that's not a choice anyone should have to make, so I asked her for some time to think, which I guess was the wrong answer because she stormed from the room, then from the house. I was basically ready, so I went to the convention anyway.

I waited in line to ask Kate my question, but when the first four were finished and I stepped to the microphone, I lost it. I broke down in front of the hundred or so people dressed up like Andorians and Romulans and their favourite Starfleet officers. I broke down in front of Kate.

I told her everything. How I'd been collecting *Star Trek* memorabilia since my father and I watched it when I was little, how I met my wife at the premier of the fourth movie, *The Voyage Home*, how she didn't mind my obsession because she had one too, how we tried having kids but kept failing and failing, how that of course takes a toll on a relationship,

how she stopped thinking about anything else, how she stopped coming to conventions with me, and how—finally, after fifteen years—Marla had decided she'd had enough and left me.

She'd left everything but her clothes: the cardboard cutouts, the made-to-scale starship models, the action figures, the collectible plates we used at our wedding. All of it.

She'd severed ties with the universe and left me just floating.

Kate didn't try to stop me once. She listened to it all and when I finished she just said, "I'm sorry", in that soft voice she only used when she was trapped with Chakotay on that uninhabited planet for what they thought would be the rest of their lives, and she came down from the stage and she hugged me.

The logical thing to do after that, of course, would have been to go after my wife and apologise, but Kate had just shown me the most kindness I'd seen in who knows how long—more than my family, at least, who could only seem to blame me for the divorce—so I followed her around the country for the next two years.

When she spoke at a convention, I was there. When she made a guest appearance on set, I was there. If she went out for a coffee at McDonald's, I was there.

All I wanted was to talk, to take her out a few times, to bring her home and cuddle under a blanket while watching reruns of shows that could never compare to hers.

But she misunderstood my attempts to reach out.

She got her lawyers involved and now I have to dress in costume if I want to see her and not get myself arrested. It's all hot and sweaty under the Klingon face mask, but it's what I've got to wear to get through security.

One day Kate will see how much she means to me. One day she'll be more than just a piece of cardboard standing in my kitchen.

Write your own stories. Start here >

<http://nzibs.co.nz/writing-short-stories/>