**Freelance Jungle interview**

How to create a writing life

how to bring a writing community to you

 Q and A and tips of how to start out with children’s author Andrea

**Growing the vision – imagining where you want to be**

* Intentions list
* Gather people

**Growing your writing community – setting up your writers group tips**

* Café or restaurant partner
* Community centre
* Gold coin start or patreon
* Auspices funding
* Grants – shire council / Bendigo bank / op shops funding
* Book sale
* Bookstore and library partners
* Nfpo advice with book keeper
* Local social media and newspaper / radio
* Turn up with 2 and slowly grow
* Advocate and networks – turn up to arts / culture events
* Stare a convo with Writers Vic / NSW / SA / Q:D / Tas / NT / WA / QLd

**Work / writing balance**

* Create a time
* Make a habit
* No to coffees
* Yes to writing
* Notes on door
* Socials off
* Family habit / buy in
* No the non negotiables

**Giving back while keeping boundaries – volunteering and creating are a powerful force**

* Have a script for no thanks or ‘free brain picks’
* Identify volunteer time and stick with that
* Give to grow
* Be strategic with volunteering

**Prioritising feeding your creativity – podcasts, events, workshops, social media, offline time**

* Weekly walk and listen
* Invest in time

**Children’s book authoring – where to start / continue**

* Based on my traditional journey
* Make yourself a student of children’s books
* Read them, don’t just write them
* Attend industry events online or conferences
* Buy pitch session through memberships
* Invest in manuscript assessments
* Don’t give them to your mum to read for feedback – give them to an expert
* Dream and imagine and record it in a notebook
* Sign up for newsletters
* Don’t get imposter syndrome, get self belief syndrome
* Accept rejections and listen to the why
* Apply for fellowships and residencies