

Writing for RRR Network News

Rural, Remote and Regional (RRR) Women's Magazine

The network relies on receiving articles from right across the state. This means we can continue to produce a magazine filled with valuable and interesting information for rural, remote and regional women. Remember your story forms an important part of this.

At this stage it might seem a daunting task to start writing. We have prepared some guidelines to make your journey easier. If it all still seems too hard don't be put off – we have a friendly editorial team who can help polish your story into a final copy, or offer suggestions along the way.

Organise your thoughts

What is it you really want to say? If you were going to tell a friend about your story, how would you describe it to them?

Try jotting down about six dot points that summarise the story you want to tell. The following questions might help:

- Where did you first hear about your topic?
- What motivated you to take the actions you took?
- How did you feel when you first took action?
- How did you overcome any difficulties you encountered?
- What did you learn from the experience?
- What was best/worst about your experience?
- Were there any humorous moments?
- What advice would you want to pass onto others based on your own experiences?
- How can people get in touch if they want to know more?

Tips for new writers

Try to keep it...

- *Light* – Generally the readers won't want to read something that's too heavy going.
- *Personal* - write your own experiences, thoughts and perceptions.
- *Positive* – affirming of women and inspiring to other women (no personal putdowns).
- *To the point* – remember we'll have limited space, so try to keep your thoughts on track. Articles of 500 words (1 page) to 1200 words (2 pages) are preferred.
- *Share* – insights and information you think might be useful for other women on similar paths.
- *Non party political* – although you might wish to write about issues that are of a political nature (ie your ideas about the way government policies affect your life), it's best to steer clear of attacking or promoting any particular political party.

Topics

- We'd like to receive articles on topics such as: women's health, business and enterprise; leadership; primary production; community building; environment; education and training; family; opportunity; and just about any topic that's of interest to non-metropolitan women.

Article length

- An article of approximately 500 words is suitable for a one page article and 1000 words for two pages.

Article title

- The title requires careful crafting – It should capture the reader's attention, create interest, accurately reflect what the article is about, and be fresh and original. If in doubt, ask someone for ideas, test your headline on a fresh set of eyes.
- Capitalise the first word in the title only, unless proper nouns are included. No full stops.
- For example: Inspiration from Katanning to New York.

Photographs

- Captions should help tell the story, create interest, and lead the reader into a closer look at the story. Don't just list people's names. Try to build the context with who, where, when, what.
- Where photo need to be attributed to the photographer, include: Photograph by Jane Smith.
- Photographs need to be good quality (>1Mb)

Spelling

- Standard reference is the Macquarie Concise Dictionary. For example, we use '-ise' words, not '-ize'.

You also might like to know...

- The Network News magazine aims to encourage women to share their thoughts, perceptions and information. Articles about and by women are given first priority, as well as articles that add dignity and appreciation to women's unique approaches to problem solving.
- There are four issues of the magazine per year, incorporating summer, autumn, winter and spring editions. The editorial deadlines for each issue are outlined in the 'submit an article. Document.
- The RRR Network welcomes stories from or about women from across WA with consideration to the following guidelines:
 1. The magazine will be pro-women reflecting their achievements, successes, interests and personal and professional diversity. Articles will promote women in a non-stereotypical manner. Words and phrases that are demeaning to women will not be accepted.
 2. Articles written from a woman's personal perspective (experience) are preferred.
 3. The writer will be credited as the author. All stories must be the writer's own work or acknowledge permission of the original author to reprint. Where excerpts of another author's work are included, the source of these should be acknowledged.
 4. Articles will be accepted on the premise that they may be edited at the discretion of the Coordinator and, where appropriate, RRR Women's reference group. Where editing is required, all sensitivity will be exercised to retain the original intent of the story.
 5. The interests of non-metropolitan WA women will receive priority consideration above all groups.
 6. The magazine will endeavour to represent the diversity of women's opinions. There should be a spread of writers from across the state.