

Dear Margaret

I am writing from Woodslane, an Australian book publisher and distributor, and I am looking for a possible book author(s).

We have in the last two years started publishing guides to regional short walks and outdoor destinations, and our format and approach has proved a considerable success. One of the key elements in these books has been their presentation and solid standard of photographic content. We have in publication at present:

Sydney's Best Harbour & Coastal Walks (the country's bestselling walking guide)  
Sydney's Best Bush, Park & City Walks  
Blue Mountains Best Bushwalks  
Sydney's Best Beaches & Rock Baths  
Brisbane's Best Bush, Bay & City Walks  
Melbournes Best Picnic Spots & Beaches

And have more in production:

Auckland's Best Bush, Coast & City Walks  
Sydney's Best Dog Walks, Parks & Places to Play  
Best Bushwalks of the Southern Snowy Mountains  
Best of Brisbane (a more general guide)  
Best of Canberra

The guides are in full colour with a high standard of cartography and attractively designed and illustrated (with several photographs per walk or at least one per destination). There are around 35-50 walks per book or 90-120 destinations. One essential difference between our walking guides and most of the available books is that ours are aimed more generally at 'people who want to go for a walk' rather than committed bushwalkers. I would be happy to forward a sample or two for your interest.

We would very much like to add some Hobart title(s) to the list as soon as possible (and thence possibly other Tasmanian titles) and are thus looking for an author or small authoring team. I should say straight off that authoring this kind of book will very likely not give the author a strictly worthwhile financial return on the time and effort they will spend. This kind of authoring/publishing is, frankly, something you do for the fun of it, the kudos, the self-satisfaction. If we sell 4000 copies in the first year (a realistic target I hope) then the author makes around \$6,000, and then they have to pay tax on that (though hopefully they'll be able to claim all expenses back against this). The upside of this kind of book is that if they work they tend to keep selling for years – often at least 3 before you need to think about making any significant changes, so the rewards, though small, are steady and keep coming!! Another upside is that if it really takes off the author can actually make a considerable sum (the Harbour Walks author makes about \$5,000 every 6 months).

We are looking for a keen walker who also has a flair for writing and photography, is well organised, would find doing the 'work' a pleasure rather than a chore and has the time available to devote to the project so that it might be completed in a fixed and agreed time period. The books I have in mind would be 'Hobart's Best Bush, Coast & City Walks' and 'Best of Hobart and SE Tasmania'. As there would be overlaps between them, we'd prefer one author (or team) to take on both.

I would very much like to hear from any of your members that felt they both had the necessary attributes and would be interested in pursuing such a project

Kind regards

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