A WORD FROM
THE EDITOR

I was interested to read Clare Swatman’s view that writing journalism and writing fiction were very different, in the interview on page 6. A lot of the skills certainly are transferable, such as the ability to grab the reader and take them through a story. But she’s right that you need extra discipline for a novel, where there are often no external deadlines. And I see what she means about not knowing where you are going when starting a book. A journalist is sifting through facts to find the best shape for the story beneath, whereas a novelist – unless they are basing their book on real events – starts with nothing and has to build everything up. That freedom can be daunting as well as liberating. But trying new things gets us out of a rut, as the Mentor points out on page 58. So what will you try?

Write soon, Carl

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