Shut up and write

This idea is promoted by Inger Mewburn from the School of Graduate Research on her thesis blog the Thesis Whisperer: http://thethesiswhisperer.wordpress.com/

She describes the movement she heard about in San Francisco:

A group of writers converge on a location, presumably one with good coffee. After 15 minutes of chit chat they, well – just shut up and write. They write solidly for an hour, then take a break for coffee and more chats before they leave.

We tend to think of writing as a solitary activity, but it is good to strip writing of some of its mystique and give it a more routine ‘while I’m here…’ hype. The more we write, the better we write; and the more we write and share with others, the more opportunities we have for further discovery and development.

Where?
- Wherever your writing group meets
- In a café
- Any available space

How long?
Any time limit from twenty minutes to two x 30 minute shifts with a break in the middle.

What for?
A way to motivate yourself to get writing that journal article, that thesis chapter, that conference paper, that lecture, that presentation.

What do I do with it?
It’s up to you and the group. Custom suggests you take your writing away and develop it further into a longer or an edited draft. This writing is not intended for immediate feedback unless you ask for it for a good reason.

Check out the School of Graduate Studies website for information about Shut Up and Write meetings. Other doctoral programs involving supervisors and candidates have organised lunchtime Shut Up and Write sessions, and have found them a source of inspiration and collegial harmony.