



# Heart to Heart

February / March 2016

ISSN 2324-1799

## Featuring...

- ♥ Daphne Clair on Your Writing Process
- ♥ All You Need Is Love—Conference 2016!
- ♥ RWNZ Contests for 2016
- ♥ "So You Think You Can Write" - Janet Elizabeth Henderson
- ♥ Member News
- ♥ Chapter news from around the regions

### What are the most important traits of the craft for a new writer to master?

Tenacity. If you were to make two lists, one of successful screenwriters and novelists, and the other of those who failed, the difference would not be talent or age or gender or geography or connections or the industry or the economy or sunspots or anything else writers tell themselves to avoid facing this truth: *writers write*.

- Interview with Michael Hauge by Lee Jessup  
([www.leejessup.com](http://www.leejessup.com)) [Click here to read more.](#)





# Welcome!

Hi Everyone,

Hello and Welcome! I hope you all had a fantastic break over the holidays. Due to the busy season we have decided to combine our February and March issue into one. There is a lot more reading this time around and some great articles too. Conference dates have been confirmed (12-14 August 2016) so mark these days down. We have got Michael Hauge as our keynote speaker and his workshop will be on the Friday. There will be more information as we come closer to the time so watch this space.

Our Woohos section has grown wonderfully and it's motivating to see our members pushing out their hard work in print! Well done and we look forward to more in the coming months ahead. Remember this is your newsletter too so feel free to send in your articles, photos and any news that you would like to share. We are also urgently looking for formatting and editorial help with the newsletter. We would love to hear from you. You can contact me on [sapiheald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sapiheald@xtra.co.nz) or Sharyn Barratt [rwnz.membership@gmail.com](mailto:rwnz.membership@gmail.com)

Wishing everyone a successful month of writing !

*Sapi*

**Sapi Heald, H2H Editor**



## New Members

**A very warm welcome to  
our new and returning  
members...**

Yelena Boskovic  
Imogene Nix  
Lucy Taylor  
Diana Tormey  
Bronwen Evans  
Kendra Delugar

*Publication in Heart To Heart is not to be interpreted as acceptance or endorsement of any organisation, contest, market, publisher, agent or industry professional by Romance Writers of New Zealand Inc. Always do your own due diligence before submitting your work, entering contests or engaging in business relationships.*



### ***What's happening in RWNZ?***

*President, Lizzi Thompson, brings us up  
to date with the news...*

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Hello Everyone!

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely holiday season and have come back rested and ready to write!

So far, this year's off to a great start. We're ticking along with plans for Conference 2016. Be sure to save out 12-14 August 2016 as the weekend to be at the Waipuna Hotel and Conference Centre in Auckland with us for the time of your life! The speakers, the awards, the opportunities to pitch to agents and publishers and the camaraderie are unparalleled, anywhere. We offer agent-publisher to author ratios which are the highest I've ever heard at a national conference, meaning that you will usually get to pitch to your choice of individuals and companies!

Many thanks to last year's RWNZ Executive, as well as Romance Writers of Australia, for lining up Michael Hauge as our keynote speaker. Writers on both sides of the Tasman are getting excited about this opportunity to learn from this engaging author, who is hugely successful across many genres of writing endeavour. His Story Mastery workshop on the Friday, as well as his offerings on the Saturday and Sunday, will be out of this world!

On the website front, I hope you have all been happy with the changes thus far. Thank you for your patience as we continue to iron out small glitches. If you have any concerns, PLEASE feel free to contact me. We're in the midst of automating the membership registration reply forms and re-vamping the contest webpages, including updating the contest applications. They'll be ready soon. We are also putting into place a new credit card system that will allow us to take membership and other charges locally in NZ dollars, without using Paypal. This has been a long process due to the failure of our original solution, which after having a large number of technical issues, are no longer taking on new accounts.

Well done to all of you who have been achieving such success with your writing and publishing, whether it's been to get 300 words down on a page every day, or to get that book out there! For such a small country, we're making our mark.

Keep it up and keep smiling,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Lizzi'.

**Lizzi Thompson**

**President, RWNZ**

Email: [rwnzpresident@gmail.com](mailto:rwnzpresident@gmail.com)



ROMANCE WRITERS OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

23RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**12–14 August, 2016**

**Waipuna Conference Centre and Hotel, Auckland**

**Featuring Full Friday Workshop by  
Story Mastery legend, Michael Hauge**

Workshops in Writing Craft, Screenwriting, Historical Fiction,  
Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, Self Publishing,  
Marketing, Writing Life and many more!

Networking opportunities with editors, industry  
professionals and fellow writers at all levels

**Online bookings open soon—watch your email and our website for details!**



# Conference News

## Superb Speakers

We are absolutely rapt with the way our programme is coming together. Speaker contracts are being signed currently, and once they're completed, we'll be shouting from the rooftops about the amazing folk who'll be inspiring and teaching at **All You Need Is Love** (our 23rd annual conference!)

After our 2015 conference we surveyed our membership and we were guided as to what people would like from the 2016 conference—specifically, a varied programme with more access/learning opportunities from guest speakers. Then we went out and worked hard to fill those requests (for example, a popular request was having some fun, interactive workshops, as well as specific industry and craft topics). We were also inundated with approaches from local and overseas speakers immediately post conference which is a testament to RWNZ's stellar reputation for putting on great conferences. It's been a balance ensuring our international speakers are given as much time in the programme as possible, accommodating membership desires, and providing a varied programme of workshops, but we're confident we'll deliver a wonderful programme. We could easily fill another day with these amazing speakers and workshops ... maybe something for future committees to consider?! For those proposed speakers and workshops we were simply unable to fit into the two-day programme, we will pass on all details to next year's conference team, and we'll also look at conducting online workshops to supplement the annual conference.

## Conference Team—We Need You!

I'm sure you'll all appreciate, up until now, our conference has been run with volunteer assistance only. Life these days is busy for all and many of us are juggling a lot of commitments that make squeezing in volunteering work difficult.

With a pool of just under 300 members, our volunteer force is limited and many of your fellow members have already served in a volunteer/committee capacity, so for those who have yet to serve, we're asking you to consider stepping forward. If we are unable to have these roles filled from within our membership, then realistically as an organisation, we'll need to look at paying for assistance. Sincere thanks to those who've offered to help with the jobs on the actual weekend, following our call on the NZromance loop. Many of you are "repeat offenders" and your ongoing volunteer support is so appreciated!



*Happy attendees from last year's conference*



**We do urgently still require people who can work on the Conference Committee in the crucial build-up period from now until August. Specifically, we people need to fill these roles:**

#### **Corporate Sponsorship Co-Ordinator**

We urgently need help in getting corporate sponsors for sessions, streams and attendee giveaways. Have previous experience in gaining sponsorships? Cold calling no problem? We have a prepared sponsorship proposal ready to go—now we need someone to drive this.

#### **Conference Registrar**

Conference bookings will be taken online, however the registrar needs to ensure all are processed correctly, liaising with the membership secretary and treasurer, dealing with attendee enquiries, pitch bookings and working with the rest of the team to ensure attendee communication is seamless. This role will require someone available from when bookings open (March) up through to conference start. A good understanding of excel is necessary, and basic wordpress skills (to navigate the back end of our website) would be helpful.

#### **Hotel Liaison**

Suitable for someone who enjoys relationship / event management. This role requires liaising with Waipuna, communicating all the conference needs to the hotel, and ensuring in advance and over the weekend the smooth running of the conference / hotel relationship.

#### **AV Liaison**

A tech-savvy person who can help ensure our speakers tech/av needs are met. Liaison with Waipuna staff if there are any av/mic issues to get any issues sorted. This is a "conference weekend" job.

#### **Raffles / Goodie Bags Co-Ordinator**

Our conference raffles are very popular with attendees and a wonderful fundraiser for the organisation. We need someone (or job share) to help gather raffle donations wrap and display the raffles at conference (we will ask for ticket seller volunteers later in the build-up) and help administer the draw. Working with our Sponsorship Co-Ordinator this role requires approaching businesses who may wish to donate items / samples, as well as putting the call out to membership for any goodies / swag they'd like to provide, and liaising with RWNZ Chapters regarding their donations.

**Any questions / offers of help—please email or phone our 2016 Conference Convenor, Bernadette Dobe** email: [frond@wave.co.nz](mailto:frond@wave.co.nz) / phone 029 250 6161

# **Thank you!**





# LET ME COUNT THE WAYS

by Daphne Clair

**Some “how to write” books describe in detail the author’s own method of writing, assuming that what brought them success must work for everyone.**

Not so. There are many, many ways of producing stories and finishing books. One size does not fit all. Try as many as you think may work for you, and if none do, mix them or invent your own.

Just as every author has a personal, unique style, we also have different ways of producing our work.

Many writers' handbooks stress the need to “write every day”, or write X number of words or pages per day, or week. These may be helpful goals, if you find them useful and usually achievable.

Don't beat yourself up because it didn't work for you. Or because you skipped a day or two;

Be realistic. Aim low and if you meet the goal you will feel a sense of achievement, and perhaps you will want to go on. Aiming too high may bring only a sense of failure and frustration. Negative feelings won't help you write well. You are entitled to feel good and enjoy the process, even when it might be easier to carve your story into stone, with your teeth.

Planners and “seat of the pants” writers are generally not exclusively one or the other. It is perfectly possible to write a whole book without any planning. It is also possible to spend a lot of time with outlines, graphs and diagrams before laying a finger on a keyboard, and then write a book easily because you know where you are going at each step. Or not easily, despite all the time spent on preparation.

Neither method guarantees a good book. Pantsers may have a manuscript full of plot holes, inconsistent characters and unnecessary scenes, needing a fierce rewrite. Planners may have a convoluted plot with underdeveloped characters and too much exposition; or they may have exhausted their energy and are already bored with the book. Or not. Whatever works for you is what you should do.

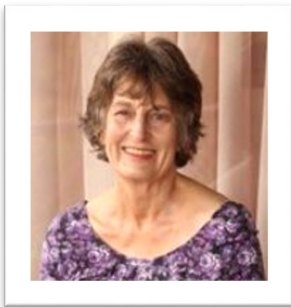
# LET ME COUNT THE WAYS by Daphne Clair

One author writes all the dialogue first, and fills in the gaps later with action, description and exposition. Another writes scenes at random, then shuffles them about until they make sense. Some use storyboards like film-makers; others pin their outlines to the wall scene by scene. A Karaveer student laid out her storyline as a graph on a roll of wallpaper, drawing in the high and low points.

Mind maps are a popular way to flesh out a story idea. Numerous sites on the internet promise to help use them on a project, and many writers find them helpful. For me, they are just confusing. For you they may be your ideal way of working.

If you like to plan your life and work, look at some of the planning software for writers offered on the internet, or try some of the methods offered in courses and how-to books, or invent your own.

Writing is sometimes like banging your head against a brick wall, but it should also sometimes feel as if you've just vaulted over the wall and are running free, or at least you are sitting on it and feeling good about exploring what's on the other side, or in your next chapter.



*Daphne Clair began writing romances for Mills and Boon in the late 70's and has published nearly 60 books. She appears often on US romance best seller lists, and also writes poetry, non-fiction, short stories, and historical fiction. Daphne has been an incredible support to RWNZ and its members since the organisation's beginning. She has taught writing for various educational institutions and at her home "Karaveer" which functioned as a writers' retreat and venue for writing courses. We very much appreciate Daphne's contribution to our newsletter—Ed.*





# 2016 RWNZ CONTEST SCHEDULE

[www.romancewriters.co.nz](http://www.romancewriters.co.nz)

## **The Great Beginnings Contest**

Entries now closed

## **The Pacific Hearts Award**

*for unpublished romance manuscripts*

Entries Open 1 March, Closes 31 March

## **Chapter Short Story Contest**

Entries Open 1 April, Closes 30 April

## **The Koru Award**

*recognises excellence in published novels*

Entries Open 1 May, Closes 31 May

Please see our website for entry information and forms : [www.romancewriters.co.nz](http://www.romancewriters.co.nz)

Queries to our Contest Co-Ordinator, Jude Knighton, [jude@judeknightauthor.com](mailto:jude@judeknightauthor.com)



# Woos, Hoos & News

Celebrating our members' achievements.

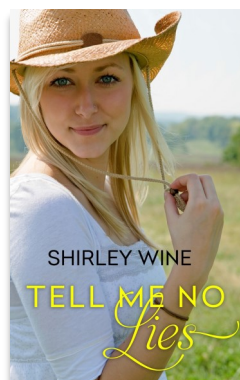
To be included on this page, email your successes to Jean Drew at [jeandrew@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jeandrew@xtra.co.nz)

Steff Green w/a **Steffanie Holmes** released THE MAN IN BLACK in December. [Kindle edition](#)

She also has released her paranormal romance WITCH HUNTER as part of a multi-author bundle called Happily Ever Alpha that hit the USA Today bestsellers list. Congratulations Steff!

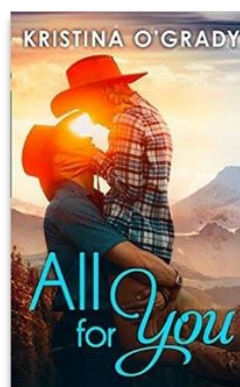


**Shirley Wine**'s first book in the trilogy sold to Escape Publishing, TELL ME NO LIES, was released on Feb 5th.



**Kris Pearson** has a new book of short stories, ROMANTIC READS VOL 3, exclusive to Amazon at this stage. Sweet and tender magazine-style stories with no sex.

**Kristina O'Grady**'s third book of The Copeland Ranch Trilogy, ALL FOR YOU was released by Carina UK on March 4.



Samantha Charlton's w/a **Jayne Castel** latest historical romance DARKEST BEFORE DAWN is now available on Amazon and Smashwords. Book 2 in The Kingdom of Mercia series set in 7th century Anglo-Saxon England.

**Yvonne Lindsay**'s Master Vintner series of six books are being re-released by Harlequin Australia in two volumes. Volume 1 will be out in March 2016 and Volume 2 in April 2016.







# Woos, Hoos & News

Celebrating our members' achievements.

To be included on this page, email your successes to Jean Drew at [jeandrew@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jeandrew@xtra.co.nz)

**Toni Strawn**'s second book, *MOMENTARY LAPSE* is being released on February 2. Her third book, *NOT FOR A MOMENT*, is due for release in May. Both are contracted by Samhain Publishing.

Jean Drew w/a **Jean Adams** has her eighth contract with The Wild Rose Press for *HONEY'S GREEK BILLIONAIRE*.

**Frances Housden**'s *CHIEFTAIN IN THE MAKING* has been nominated in the Historical Romance section by the Australian Romance Readers Association. And she has a March 5 release of *CHIEFTAIN'S REBEL* the 6th and final book in the Chieftain series.

Janet Kortlever w/a **Janet Elizabeth Henderson** has a new book out February 29, titled *HERE COMES THE RAINNE AGAIN*. It's number 6 in her Scottish series.

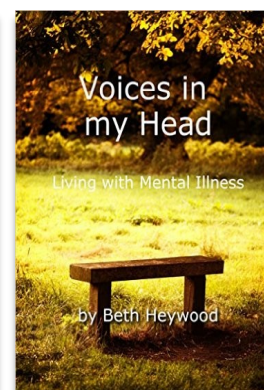
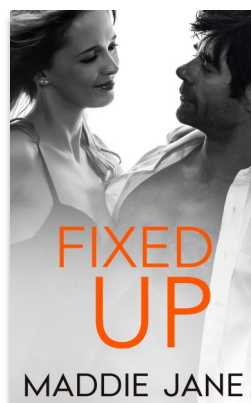
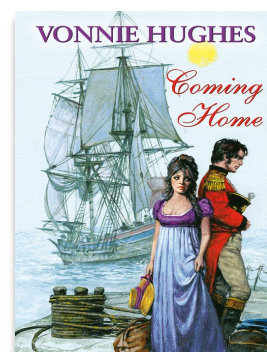
**Vonnie Hughes**' *COMING HOME* is a Regency historical originally published in hardcover by Robert Hale Ltd. Crowood have reissued it as an e-book.

[Epub edition](#) [Kindle edition](#)

There's also talk of an audio book in the near future.

Liz Heywood w/a **Beth Heywood** has published *VOICES IN MY HEAD* on [Amazon](#).

Jane Madison-Jones, w/a **Maddie Jane**, has contemporary romance *FIXED UP* due for release by Escape Publishing on 15 March.







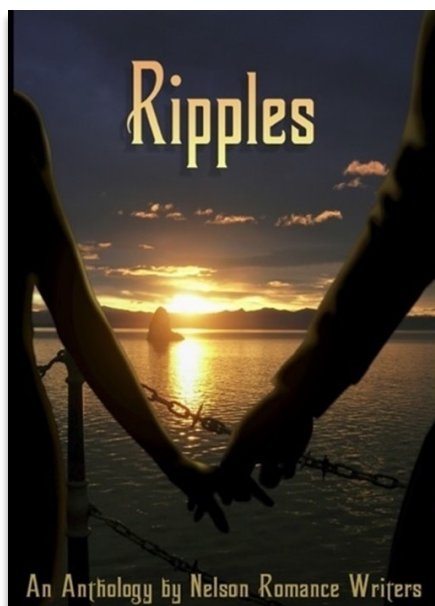
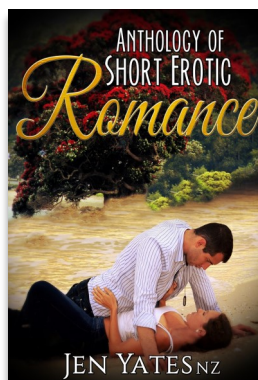
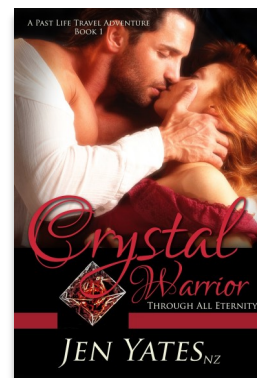
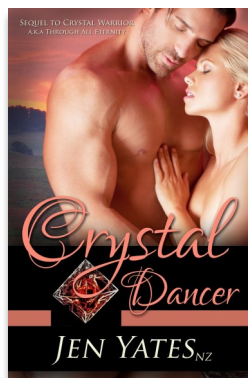
# Woos, Hoos & News

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**Jen Yates'** The Atlantean Crystal Saga by Jen Yates NZ comprises 2 titles, each a stand-alone story. Book 1 is CRYSTAL WARRIOR and Book 2, CRYSTAL DANCER. Both books are available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.co.uk/?ref=ap_r_dp_rdr).

She has also released two erotic books on Amazon. THE WINNING HAND (a 'soft' erotic novella set in Tahiti), and an anthology of short erotic romances.



**Twelve members of RWNZ's Nelson Chapter** have created their first Anthology *RIPPLES*, which contains short stories, excerpts from novels, poems and quotes.

Contributing authors are: **Sally Astridge, Donna Capil, Jacquie Churchill Davies, LaVerne Clark, Lorna Croft, Sheree Davidson, Jean Gorman, Heather Holmes, Karen Johnson Mead, Wendy Scott, Judy Tregurtha, Annika Ohlson-Smith**

Order through Annika at:  
[nelsonromancewriters@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nelsonromancewriters@xtra.co.nz)

Well done everyone,

*Jean*

**Jean Drew**  
**Founder, RWNZ**



# So, you think you can write?

by Janet Elizabeth Henderson

I've been having this recurring dream lately. I'm on stage at Wembley. The crowd is huge. Mark Coker, the Smashwords CEO, is standing beside me dressed like a 70s game show host, complete with gold glitter jacket and sparkling teeth. In front of him is a table with three celebrity judges, lit up for everyone to see.

There's Nora Roberts, wearing an evening gown and typing on her laptop. There's Kathy Bates in her Misery persona, caressing a sledgehammer. And there's my high school English teacher, Mrs Stirling, who is sipping tea from a china cup.

"So," Mark says, "this week Janet offered her latest manuscript, *Here Comes The Rainne*, for consideration. What do we think of it? Nora, we'll start with you."

Nora Roberts looks up, still typing and stares at me. "I'm not impressed. In the time it's taken you to write the first draft I've written four hundred and eleven novels. If you want to be a professional in this business, if you want a bookshop dedicated solely to your books and your own hotel, you need to step up your output."

"Okay," Mark says. "Fair criticism. Kathy, your thoughts?"

Kathy glares at him, making him shuffle uncomfortably.

"Sorry," Mark says, "I mean Annie Wilkes, what are your thoughts on the latest instalment in Janet's Scottish romance series?"

Kathy's cold stare makes me want to run. Or vomit.

"I don't understand why you had to kill Matt's father in *Calamity Jena*. He shouldn't have died. You should have brought him back in this book and made him the hero."

"What do you think about that?" Mark asks me.

"Eh, we barely met Matt's father. This book is about Alastair and Rainne, whom we met in the first book in the series. I needed to finish their story."

# SO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRITE

by Janet Elizabeth Henderson

The sledgehammer hits the desk, making it shudder. Nora keeps typing, but my English teacher snatches her cup from the rocking surface.

Kathy pins me with an evil glare. "Matt's father. Re. Write." The words are a threat.

"Great idea," I say. "Wish I'd thought of it. I'll get right on it." My eyes are on the sledgehammer.

Kathy sits back down. She points two fingers at her eyes then at me. She'll be watching. Yay for me.

"And Mrs Stirling, what did you think of Janet's tenth book?"

"Oh dear," Mrs Stirling says. She gives me a tremulous smile. "This is why I tried to encourage you to steer clear of creative writing. You're much better suited to writing letters. Why don't you turn this into a nice, short letter to your mother? I'm sure she'd appreciate it."

I stare at her—because, seriously, what is there to say?

Mrs Stirling is unfazed by my lack of response. "You can do it. I believe in you." She gives me a double thumbs up gesture.

I'm still gaping at her as Mark addresses the camera. "There you have it. The judges opinions. Now for the scores."

There's a drum roll and one by one the three women hold up white cards. With one hand still typing, Nora holds up a zero. Kathy lets go of her sledgehammer long enough to hold up three cards—I get a minus ten from her. My English teacher gives me a zero too, but she's turned hers into an encouraging smiley face.

"What do you think?" Mark asks me. "Fair or not?"

I am unable to reply because at this point in the dream I wake in a cold sweat—just as Nora shouts: "Excellent. Another book finished."

I'm currently writing my tenth book. I tell you this because deep inside I'm still waiting for someone to tap me on the shoulder and tell me I'm a fraud. When people ask what I do for a living, I say I'm a mum—which I am and it's bloody hard work—but I never say I'm a writer. Mainly because I don't feel like I am. I don't feel I have the right to call myself a writer. In fact, I'm not sure if I'll ever get to the stage where I feel I can call myself a writer. Will it happen after thirty books? After getting an agent? (I had one, I still felt like a fraud.) After getting a publishing contract? (Again, I had one, I felt like a fraud.) After winning awards? Hitting the NYT bestseller list? Winning a RITA? Making a million a month?

I honestly don't know.

We all suffer from moments where we wonder what we're doing and whether we have the right to do it at all—well maybe not Nora, but the rest of us for sure! When I'm assaulted by negative thoughts that derail my work process, I claw my way through it by doing the following, maybe some of this can help you too:

## ***Stop comparing yourself to other writers***

Seriously, this is the kiss of death for healthy self-esteem. There will always be someone who writes better, who makes more money, who has won more awards, who's more productive, who takes a better author photo...whatever! Roosevelt said: "Comparison is the thief of joy". You can't write like anyone else. They can't write like you. Don't turn writing into a competition. It isn't. There are no winners and losers. There's room for everyone and an audience for everybody's story. Just do the best you can do every day.



# SO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRITE

by Janet Elizabeth Henderson

## ***Stop worrying what readers/critics/editors/agents/other writers think about your work***

You can't please everyone. Sometimes you can't please anyone! Everyone has different tastes. Even "expert" opinions vary greatly from one to another. Sure there are constants in writing you can measure—as in all forms of art—but these usually have to do with technique, the mechanics of writing. You can't judge someone's style, story, experience, voice etc. And the reason you can't judge is because these things are a matter of personal taste. Remind yourself that ALL input is just a matter of opinion (whether it's good or bad) and don't let it overly influence your work.

## ***Have your own definition of success***

You've probably heard it said elsewhere but it's worth repeating—make sure you understand what success means FOR YOU. Is it to make a living from your writing and quit your day job? Is it to take on Nora on the production front? Is it to get a number one NYT bestseller listing? Is it to get stocked at the local bookstore? Is it to give a copy of your book to your mother? Whatever it is, write it down, cling to it and when other people judge you, and your work, by their definition of success look at yours and remind yourself what's important to you.

## ***Remind yourself why you're writing***

Are you doing it for fun? Do you have a compulsion to write? Do you want to reach people with your "message"? To make the world a better place? To give people a laugh? To provide an escape? To get all the voices out of your head?! Whatever your reason for writing, this is the thing you should strive to hold on to. It's the reason you have passion for your work. The reason you spend time doing it rather than doing the million other things you could do. Don't forget it or you'll get weighed down trying to live up to other people's expectations for your life.

## ***Enjoy the freedom of the process***

Georgia O'Keefe was an amazing American painter who was born at the end of the 19th Century. She painted in a time when it was a hard career for women and this is what she said about her experience: "I can't live where I want to, I can't go where I want to go, I can't do what I want to, I can't even say what I want to. I decided I was a very stupid fool not to at least paint as I wanted to." And we would be very stupid not to write exactly what we want to write. Don't worry about writing to the market, or for an agent, or to a guideline. Write the story on your heart. The one that makes you excited. And enjoy your creative freedom.

## ***Value encouragement***

I'm rubbish at this. I'm great at remembering every negative review and nasty comment. Not so good at remembering the encouraging ones. I'm trying to change. I'm trying to hold the positive tight to me and let it feed me. I'm trying to believe that people mean it when they say they enjoy my work, or think it's good. It's hard. But encouragement is like sunlight to a writer. If we stay in the dark and don't let it near us, our creative process dies.

# SO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRITE

by Janet Elizabeth Henderson

## ***Finish what you start***

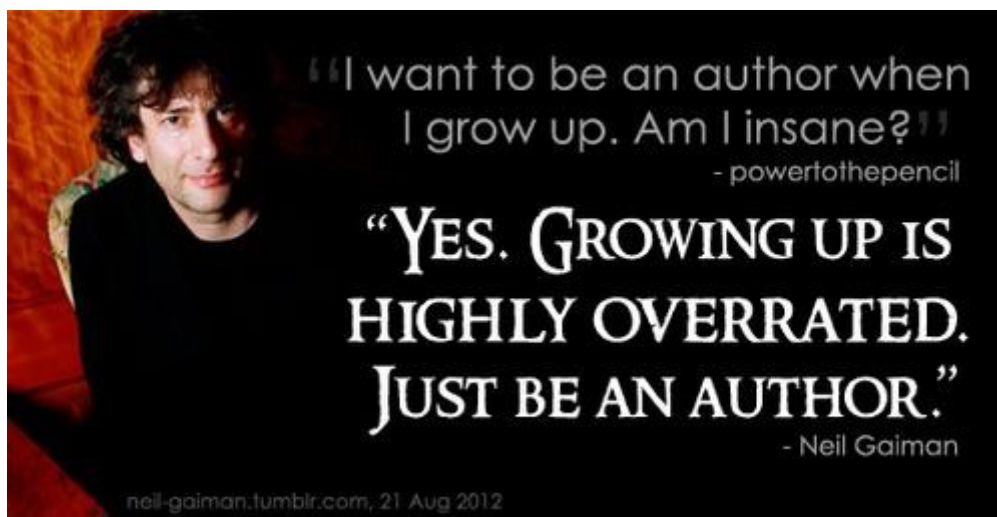
Above all else, when you feel like a fraud and wonder what you're doing. Don't let it stop you from doing it. Don't give up on the project. Finish the damn thing even when you think a five year old would do a better job. Finish it when you don't think anyone would buy it, let alone read it. Finish it when it feels like English is your second language and you can't remember the basic rules of grammar. Finish it when your characters are wooden. When your story is leaden. When the pacing is so slow it's practically going backwards. Above all else—finish what you start. The reason I'm banging on about this, is this: often when we're besieged by negative thinking and terrified reasoning we can't actually tell if what we're doing is any good. We can't see it clearly. So finish the work. Put it away and look it again later. You might be pleasantly surprised to discover you have something in your hands you can work with.

So that's it. My techniques for overcoming self-doubt. Unfortunately I haven't come up with any techniques for shutting down my subconscious when I sleep. But I do have a list of things I'd like to say to Nora Roberts if I ever meet her!

## ***About Janet Elizabeth Henderson***

Apart from writing contemporary romance, I'm also mother to two tiny girls and about a million animals! Here are 7 more random things about me:

1. I accidentally mooned a crowd at a Bolivian wedding.
2. I've been chased by a gang of baboons. And I mean gang. They were organised and vicious. All that was missing was their leather jackets and tattoos!
3. I wrote my first novel when I was 22. It was a cross between Star Wars, Monsters Inc. and Tinkerbell. Funnily enough, no one wanted to publish it. Odd that...
4. I was a portrait artist on the streets of Amsterdam for a time.
5. I worked night shift as a security guard at Stirling Castle in Scotland while I was in college. The castle was on a terrorist hit-list back then. To defend it they gave me a flashlight, a two-way radio that only worked one-way and made me wear a polyester A-line skirt...
6. I taught art at summer camp in America – twice. The first time I met my Dutch husband and he took me back to Holland as his souvenir. The second time I got strep throat, a weird rash, food poisoning, a sprained ankle and accidentally dyed my hair green...





## International Contests

### **Daphne Du Maurier Award for Excellence in Mystery/Suspense (Published)**

Deadline: March 15, 2016

Eligibility: The contest is open to any writer who has been published in book-length fiction. All entries must have a minimum length of 40,000 words.

Fee: US \$30

Enter: Entrants will submit four (4) copies of a published novel with a copyright date of 2015.

More Info: <http://rwamysterysuspense.org/daphne>

### **Daphne Du Maurier Award For Excellence in Mystery/Suspense (Unpublished)**

Deadline: March 15, 2016

Eligibility: The Daphne is open to all writers who have never been published in book-length fiction (40,000 words or more). All work must be the entrant's original work, and not be contracted for publication prior to entering the contest.

Fee: US \$15-30

Enter: First 5,000 words of the manuscript with a synopsis of no more than 675 words.

More Info: <http://rwamysterysuspense.org/daphne>

### **Fire & Ice Contest**

Deadline: March 18, 2016

Eligibility: The author cannot be published or contracted in novel-length fiction of 20,000 words or more in the category entered, within five years of the contest deadline (between March 18, 2011 and March 18, 2016). The manuscript must have a projected length of 20,000 words or more.

Enter: Each submission should consist of one (1) copy of up to the first 3,000 words of a manuscript. An optional query may be included at the beginning of your entry. The query should be no more than one page in length (we recommend short and sweet!) and should follow the same standard format rules found below, but without a page number.

Fee: US\$25-30

More Info: <http://chicagonorthrwa.org/fire-and-ice-contest/>

### **The Royal Ascot Contest (The Beau Monde Chapter of RWA)**

Deadline: March 27, 2016

Eligibility: Open to unpublished authors and published writers seeking representation and/or a publisher. All entries must have at least partial Regency (Late Georgian) setting, broadly defined: within the United Kingdom between 1780 and 1840.

Fee: US \$24-30

Enter: First 7,000 words (determined by computer word count) and an optional 1-2 page double-spaced synopsis. If a synopsis is included, please paste it onto the end of your manuscript submission, submitting only one document.

More Info: <http://thebeaumont.com/resources/the-royal-ascot-contest/>

### **14th Annual Romance through the Ages Contest**

Deadline: March 31, 2016

Eligibility: Unpublished authors may enter any category. Published authors may enter any category in which they're not published, or in which they've not been contracted for publication within the past five years. Self-published work will be considered contracted for the purposes of this contest.

Fee: US \$20-25

Enter: See website for details

More Info: <http://www.heartsthroughhistory.com/rtta-contest/>

### **Fool For Love Contest (Virginia Romance Writers)**

Deadline: April 1, 2016

Eligibility: All categories, except the Published Author category, are open to entrants who have not published and are not contracted in any novel-length fiction.

Fee: US \$30-35

Enter: 7500 word maximum entry (approximately 30 pages).

More Info: <http://virginiaromancewriters.com/fool-for-love-2/fool-for-love-rules/>



### **Tickety Boo Press UK**

**SEEKING** romance science fiction

Female or alternate male female POVs please

**LENGTH**

90,000 to 100,000 words

**PAYMENT**

30% royalties

**DETAILS**

Tickety Boo Press [www.ticketyboopress.co.uk](http://www.ticketyboopress.co.uk)

### **'Scarlet Leaf Review'**

New Canadian magazine

**SEEKING**

stories - genre free and welcomes a wide range of writing. These editors want writing that will 'transport the reader somewhere else in a captivating, thrilling, mesmerizing world.'

**LENGTH**

Around 5,000 words

**PAYMENT**

CAD\$25 for first-publication rights

**DETAILS**

'Scarlet Leaf Review',  
[www.scarletleafreview.com](http://www.scarletleafreview.com)

### **Paper Road Press**

New Zealand Small Press

**SEEKING**

Open to all forms of science fiction and fantasy, 'all things in between - and things from the fringes, too.' This editor likes 'magical realism, urban fantasy, space opera, secondary worlds, time travel, myths and legends, crossovers and re-imaginings.

**LENGTH**

Novellas of 20,000 to 50,000 words will be published as ebooks and POD paperbacks. Novellas which create serial stories or link connected worlds are eagerly sort as are novels, 50,000 words plus. Novels are published as print and ebooks.

**PAYMENT**

Discussed at contract

**DETAILS**

Paper Road Press, website: <http://paperroadpress.co.nz/>

### **Dark Warrior Press USA**

**'Dark Warrior Random Anthology'**

**SEEKING**

Short stories for readers, stories that keep the reader guessing, never knowing what's about to happen or what they will find out. This is the editorial team's vision of random, 'the chaotic unknown.'

**LENGTH**

2,500 to 7,000 words with 5,000 words preferred,

**PAYMENT**

Payment is US\$1 and 1% royalties for a year plus a digital copy for exclusive electronic rights for six months after the anthology's publication.

**DETAILS**

[darkwarriorpublishing@gmail.com](mailto:darkwarriorpublishing@gmail.com)

### **Harmony Ink Press USA**

print and e-books

**SEEKING**

YA Romance - LGBTQ

**LENGTH**

Novella (15-44,999 words) or Novel (45,000 words and up)

**PAYMENT**

For novels, a \$500-\$1,000 advance is paid in a single payment upon receipt of the signed contract. Once the advance is satisfied, novels earn 40% royalties for digital sales and 30% royalties for print sales.

**DETAILS**

#### **Harmony Ink Press**

website: <https://www.harmonyinkpress.com>

guidelines: <https://www.harmonyinkpress.com/submissions>

# News from around the regions



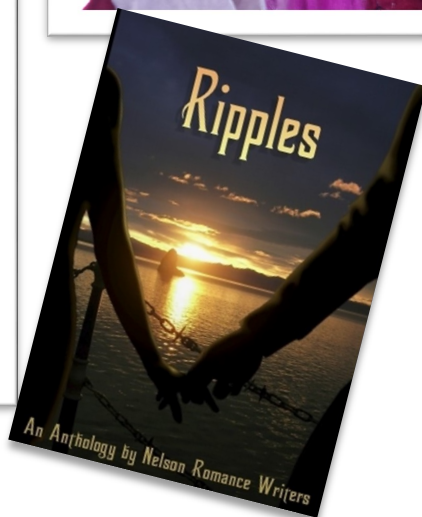
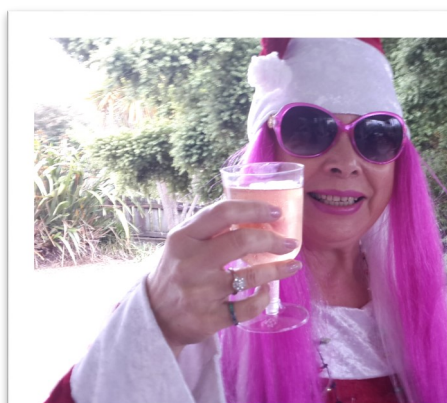
## Nelson

At our first meeting of the year after the usual catch-up chats we had two important things on the agenda – the launch of our Anthology 'Ripples' on Valentine's Day and which speakers do we want for the year ahead?

We are very excited about the launch and we have already sold several books in advance, so we're very confident we will row this project ashore with ease. We have been interviewed about it in two local papers and will also be interviewed on radio Fresh FM Top of the South Writers Show after the launch.

As for the speakers, we have some interesting ideas about a clairvoyant, a midwife, a funeral manager and a person with knowledge about Maori protocol among others. These will give us plenty of stuff to use in our writing during the year.

We welcomed Sue Berryman as our new member. Sue did the hard work of final proofreading our book before Christmas and we are delighted to have her in our group now. We're still meeting on the second Saturday in the month at 2pm and also starting our critique group again. New members are welcome.



## REGIONAL CONVENORS

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**Otago:** Interested in helping out as convenor? Email VP Bernadette!

[rwnzvicepresident1@gmail.com](mailto:rwnzvicepresident1@gmail.com)

# News from around the regions



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## Auckland

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We had a lovely meeting on 6 February – the first for the year. 17 attended. I was the speaker this time on 'Outlining Your Novel' (ref K.M. Weiland). We had a great deal of useful discussion.

Our meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month from 12.30—3pm at the Three Kings Tennis Pavilion. Please bring a gold coin donation, a plate to share, and change for the raffles. All welcome. Next meeting 2 April.

Pamela Gervai, Convener

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## Wellington/Kapiti

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Our December Christmas lunch took place at Ellie's, with far too much delicious food. It was a great chance to catch up with some of the people we hadn't seen for a while.

We talked about hosting a future conference in Wellington – we think we can swing it! Then we delved into the magic envelope and read out people's aspirations for 2015. Some did really well and some fell short of their ambitions. Never mind – we have them all written down again for the coming year.

Our first meeting for 2016 took place in the Paraparaumu library meeting room. This gave Peter the chance to record some sound bites for his radio show. Next meeting – Saturday March 5th .

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## Christchurch

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We held our recent meeting in the South Library on Valentine's Day. Just six of us present that day, so it was more of a coffee and catch up. Our group is small but really supportive of each other and each month we seem to have something to celebrate, as we progress and achieve our goals, whether they be publishing, finishing a novel or learning a new skill.

Our next meeting is Sunday 13th March at Upper Riccarton Library, 10am–12pm. New members are always welcome.

Cheers,  
Jane

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## REGIONAL CONVENORS

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**Otago:** Interested in helping out as convenor? Email VP Bernadette!





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Treasurer	Ritu Pandey <a href="mailto:rwnztreasurer@gmail.com">rwnztreasurer@gmail.com</a>
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Membership Secretary	Sharyn Barratt <a href="mailto:rwnz.membership@gmail.com">rwnz.membership@gmail.com</a>
Immediate Past President	Kamy Chetty <a href="mailto:kamychetty@yahoo.com">kamychetty@yahoo.com</a>
Joint Publicity Officers	Trudi Caffell Kristina O'Grady Carole Brungar <a href="mailto:rwnzpublicity@gmail.com">rwnzpublicity@gmail.com</a>

*Romance Writers of New Zealand was founded in September 1990 by Jean Drew.*

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