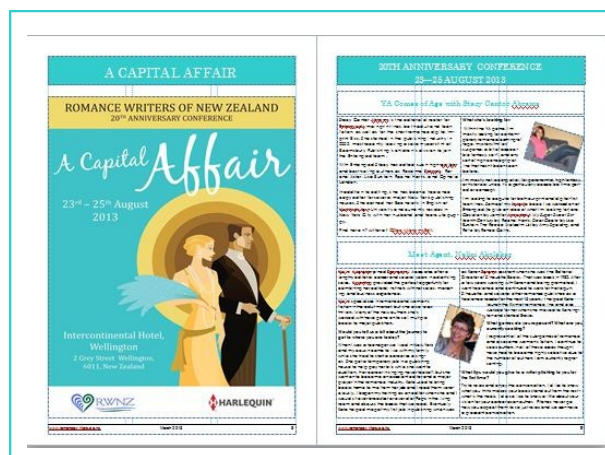


HEART TO HEART

Featuring:

"Gobsmacked" was the word a fellow Kiwi writer used when she first heard about Rosalind James - an American indie author who has not only written romances set in New Zealand but completely embraced our land, our culture - heck, even our All Blacks! What's more, she is doing very nicely at the e-publishing gig. RWNZ member Joanne Hill talks to Rosalind about writing, ebooks, and the reaction of her family to her career as a writer of romance.... Pp 2-3



CONFERENCE UPDATE:

Further updates on what is in store at this year's fabulous conference, A Capital Affair. Workshops, bios, and a reminder to start thinking about raffles, goodie bags, and sponsorship. Pp 8—12

Plus all your favourites:

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Competitions and Markets	pg 14
Woos & Hoos	pg 17
Around the regions	pg 18
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Just for ... the love of it

Joanne Hill talks to writer Rosalind James about her writing and love of New Zealand

Rosalind James fell in love with New Zealand when she lived here for 15 months, a period which coincided with Rugby World Cup fever and the Grand Final, watched with friends at a pub in Wellington. Fascinated by the spotlight the All Blacks were under, she got to thinking about how hard it would be to find a life partner in that environment, someone who didn't want you for your money or celebrity, and who would understand the stress placed on you being an All Black. That was the genesis of the book "Just This Once," the first in the "Escape to New Zealand" series. Now living in California with her engineer husband, Rick, she is working on the first book in a new U.S.-based series. Rosalind has an MBA in marketing, and a background in publishing and marketing.

Heart 2 Heart (H2H): What was your background in writing?

Rosalind James (RJ): I'd been a marketing writer for years, but my fiction career was confined to a single story about Betty Bacillus when I was nine. I'd always had stories in my head, but I just thought of that as daydreaming, and would tell myself to stop that and get to work. The difference is that, for some reason, I gave myself permission to try to write one of those stories down. And it just—boom, it took off from there. Within a few weeks, I had written a BOOK, and it was the most fun I'd ever had. Total shock to me.

I was really naïve about how hard it would be to find an agent and a publisher. I honestly thought that I'd send the first book out to a few agents, and somebody would want it. I sent it to 38 agents and three publishers. Three agents and

one publisher asked to see more, but everyone eventually said no.

One day, I heard back from the third of those agents, who'd asked to read the entire book. She said she liked it, but she thought "New Zealand rugby" was too tough a hook in the U.S. market. An hour earlier, my doctor had called me and told me she was referring me to the oncologist, and it might not be too good. My first thought was, thank God my children were grown. And my second was, thank God I'd had a chance to do what I loved. The one thing I knew for sure was that I didn't want to die without publishing my books.

The other thing I knew for sure was that "New Zealand rugby" was a GREAT hook. I finished writing "Just for Now", two days before I went into hospital, and started editing a few days after I came out. If people say "Just for Now"

is too heart-warming, my answer is, I was on a LOT of narcotics, and thinking hard about what mattered in life, when I wrote it.

I also started thinking about what it would be like being a New Zealand sportsman if you just couldn't help being a Tall Poppy. (Guess which then -All Black inspired THOSE thoughts.) So when I finished "Just This Once" and was in 'book withdrawal', I started "Just Good Friends" to explore that. And it went on from there.

H2H: You put out four books last year - it must have been a hectic schedule.

RJ: Not really. I've been writing for a

living for a long time, and writing my own stories is so much fun, it just goes really fast. I spend about three weeks thinking a book out in my head. It takes me six weeks to write the first draft, and another few weeks to edit and revise. About three months per book. I quit my "day job" after I finished "Just This Once," so my life now is fairly leisurely, except that by the time I'm 50% into the new book, I'm pretty focused. I do write seven days a week, normally.

H2H: Do you have your books professionally edited before you publish?

RJ: Not copy edited, but that's because I was a professional editor myself for many years. If you can stay alert enough to get law books right, you can copy edit romance novels! I do go through each book many tens of times. I have a small critique group of friends who are extremely helpful for content editing. They tell me exactly what isn't working. My books are 100% better because of them, especially "Just Good Friends" and "Just for Fun." They really ripped those, first time around.

Your covers are gorgeous. What was your brief in a book cover?

RJ: Simple, tasteful, intelligent covers. Something that still says romance, but

not 'embarrassing.' The books are funny, playful, sexy, and occasionally tear-jerking. Not completely frothy, there's a serious story in there too. Because I had a series, I asked the designer, Robin Ludwig, to tie the books together, and she achieved that with colour and lay out.

H2H: What expectations did you have about your books, and with that, what did you know about indie publishing?



RJ: I believe my exact thoughts were, "What the heck. Might as well try." I just hoped I wouldn't crash and burn. I had a wild hope that I'd make back my investment in covers and website—about US \$1400—before the end of the year (four months). (It actually took about a week. Shock.) I knew nothing about indie publishing either. Just Googled around and figured out how to do it. It was really scary, but I thought, hey, I have a whole career here in publishing and marketing. I should be able to figure this out.

H2H: Tell us your experience with KDP Select on Amazon and the free days?

RJ: KDP Select has been pretty fantastic; definitely my best tool in promoting the books. My first three-day period, a week after publishing, generated 14,500 downloads, which was overwhelming; my latest, in January (five days) generated 92,300! I wrote a blog post in response to other writers' questions about what I did and why I thought it worked (beyond "magic" or "luck," which is how it seemed); you can see that at <http://www.rosalindjames.com/just-this-once-is-free/>.

H2H: What do you think the appeal of your books is - your sales are impressive when there are so many books fighting for recognition, especially e-published novels in the romance genre.



RJ: For one thing, the armchair travel aspect. Even though many Americans don't travel much, that doesn't mean they wouldn't like to. And New Zealand is a VERY romantic destination to American women. Beyond that—I guess they are a bit different than a lot of what's out there. Right now, the trend is for lots of drama—what a country song calls "knock-down, drag-out, cryin' in the rain." As a reader and a writer, I'm much more about Elizabeth Bennet being witty in the drawing room than Heathcliff wandering the moors, and maybe that appeals to some people. (While others think it's "boring." Oh well, can't please everyone.) Other than that, I don't know!

H2H: How did friends and family react when they learnt you were writing romance?

RJ: My kids thought it was high-larious. When I told my oldest son that the hero was a rugby player, he said, "Mom. Mom. Wait. Is he an All Black?" Then stomped around the kitchen holding his stomach and laughing. My younger son and his girlfriend, who live in Australia at the moment, were reading the excerpt for "Just This Once" on Amazon when it was first published, and my son reported that he screamed and just about had to poke his eyes out. But actually, I think they're proud of me. My husband has been incredibly supportive and wonderful about the whole thing right from the start, which is what counts. And if my friends rolled their eyes,

ROSALIND'S TIPS ON E PUBLISHING

- Cover, title, blurb: These things sell your book, and you have only a fraction of a second to catch the reader's attention. So polish them just as much as you did your prose.
- Make sure your book is edited.
- Put maximum information on the Amazon page such as a short excerpt from each book on the product page, so people won't have to click to "look inside" to see that the writing doesn't stink!
- To get exposure, since nobody knows who you are, consider signing up to Amazon Select which offers free days. You may have written the best book ever, but nobody's heard of it. There's a rule in marketing, especially direct mail marketing, that it takes 7 to 12 'touches', or impressions, to make a sale. Anything you can do to let people know about you is going to help.
- Your fate is truly in your own hands, so experiment. There's no template out there for this; it's all too new. Try stuff and see what works.

Author Bio

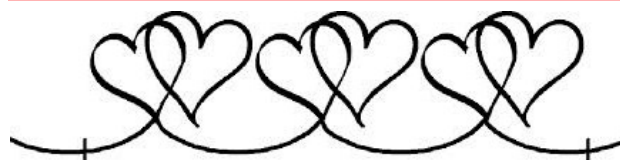
A HUGE thanks from the Heart 2 Heart editors to RWNZ member, the fabulous Joanne Hill who interviewed Rosalind James for us.

About Joanne:

After decades of rejection from editors and agents, Joanne has begun e-publishing her books on Amazon - a short story anthology *Love the Commute*, and a sweet, contemporary romance, *Daniel's Bride*.

Her next book *Falling for Jack* (a Clendon award Readers Choice winner) will be published in March. Joanne is a founding member of RWNZ and served a term as President.

Check out the website, www.joannehill.com and follow on twitter @joanneauthor



"If you want
to be a
writer,
you must do
two things
above all
others:
read a lot
and
write a lot."
— Stephen King

A Captial Affair
Romance Writers of
New Zealand
20th Anniversary
Conference

23rd—25th August
Intercontinental Hotel
2 Grey Street
WELLINGTON

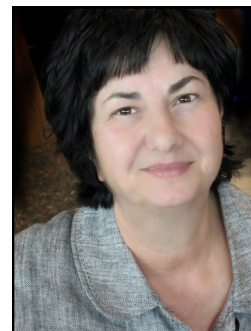
MORE INFORMATION PP 8-12

From The President's Pen

*What's happening in
RWNZ?*

*President **Giovanna Lee**
brings us up to date with the
news.*

giovannaalee@yahoo.com



How fast the time is flying by – and how quickly the news is accumulating! Firstly, a reminder about the new **Pacific Hearts Award** Have you sent your manuscript in yet, or are you still tweaking those last minute changes?

The judges are ready and waiting and very keen to read your manuscripts. Contest manager Shirley is checking her inbox every day. So now it is your turn. Please don't leave it until the March 1st deadline. Do a final read, a final polish and let those babies into the world. If you have already sent your manuscript to Shirley and you haven't received confirmation of its arrival, please email to make sure it has arrived. Shirley.megget@gmail.com

I want to hear that those of you who are eligible to enter are doing so. I can't enter this year because I helped set it up - but maybe next year. Good luck everyone! The prizes are truly amazing, and it's a wonderful chance to get unbiased anonymous feedback from judges who are keen readers.

Executive News

It's with sadness we say goodbye to our treasurer Deborah Shattock. Her husband is retiring soon and they are taking a three month holiday overseas during the busy conference registration period. It has been a pleasure working with her.

Most of you know Pat Snellgrove who has kindly agreed to be the new treasurer. She is a well-known name having done the treasurer job before besides being one of our past president. Many thanks to both ladies.

Conference Update

As I mentioned in the October Heart to Heart we have set the price of the three-day conference at \$550 as agreed at the last year's members' meeting. The breakdown is :

Friday serious writers' day with Shirley Jump:	\$183
Saturday and Sunday Weekend Conference:	\$367
Cocktail Party:	\$39
Awards Dinner:	\$68

Suddenly our conference weekend has been classed as an Event Weekend in Wellington because of a Bledisloe Cup Rugby match.

The city will be buzzing – we really know how to cater for an event. But this means that the hotels have increased their room-rates. Well done to those RWNZ members who have already booked at the conference rates. The rooms are being gobbled up fast. This is what is still available at the confirmed conference rate.

Intercontinental

10 rooms at the \$159 per room for Friday night
9 Rooms at the \$159 per room for Saturday night.
Leeann has a room booking for 3 nights 22/23/24 August. If someone would like to take over this room please let her know at morgan.leeann@clear.net.nz or it will go back to the pool. Once the above rooms are gone then they will charge the daily rate. (At the moment 23-26th are \$349, \$399 and \$289). The rooms charges will only get higher, so do it NOW.

Email Orshi Miklos at orshi.miklos@ihug.com and quote our conference.

Her direct line is 64 4 495 7865.

IBIS hotel

Right round the corner from the Intercontinental.

Email Sharyna Te Puia at H3049-RM01@accor.com and quote 'Romance Writers' to get the low rate if it is still available.

PH:- 04 496 1880

As I write, only three rooms are available so I do urge you to phone now to grab the cheap rate Friday and Saturday.

They are holding another 20 rooms on first come

first serve for the 23rd & 24th August for \$199 including GST per night per room. They will charge an extra \$40 for three people sharing but these rooms are limited so they might not be available.

Once the 20 rooms are booked, the rate will rise to \$419 per night.

I have tried to get us more rooms at Rydges and James Cook but sadly they will only quote the rate of \$400 a night.

In this issue are some of the plenary and workshops that are available during the three day conference. I can guarantee you'll go home exhausted.

The programme is now virtually finalised, and once that's done registration will be open so do keep an eye on our website. It will be announced on our loop.

Jo is doing a fantastic job updating our website www.romancewriters.co.nz, and the conference committee is working hard to finalise the last crucial details. RWNZ thanks you all.

So – are you tempted??? I'm looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones. I know we'll all have fun and learn heaps. And just advance notice in case you see the perfect outfit, our dress theme for the Awards Dinner will be 'Wellywood Glamour' – what else! The RWNZ yearly conference is my yearly treat. Make it yours!

See you there.

Giovanna Lee
RWNZ President

WRITER AT WORK

Do not disturb unless you come bearing coffee and/or
publishing contracts

The Single Page Synopsis—Part Two

© Gracie O'Neil

This month we continue with Gracie O'Neil's ten point implementation of the requirements for a character-based synopsis.

These are:

1. The hook
2. The heroine, her backstory, and internal conflict
3. The hero, his backstory and internal conflict
4. The external conflict
5. First stage co-operation
6. Intimacy
7. Reversion
8. Second stage co-operation
9. Black moment
10. Resolution

Remember this is only a one

pager. You don't have the

space to go into huge detail. In the two pager you begin to elaborate on the hints and nuances you've crafted here.

Last time, we tackled points one through three. Let's go on, from point 4.



Gracie O'Neil

4. The External Conflict What happens to bring the main characters together. The main points for the main characters. If there are subplots don't bring them in here.

Following a line of enquiry Mac visits a local bar. While he doesn't learn anything about his case, he learns something about his own future, and the very human female destined to share it.

Although unimpressed by their first encounter, when Rip meets Mac on the doorstep of one of her elderly clients, and then discovers the old lady has been brutally murdered,

she's initially grateful for his presence and help. But when the same thing happens again, she begins to wonder if Mac is more than he seems.

Rip isn't the only one to see a connection. Mac, determined to protect his wounded warrior from herself, decides he needs to get a whole lot closer. But Rip doesn't want a relationship and she still can't trust anyone enough to let them inside her home...until on

her night off, a huge, hairy, goofball of a dog turns up on her porch demanding to be let in.

And won't take no for an answer.

5. First Stage Co-operation

This is where the armed truce between the hero and heroine

begins to move towards something less distant. It often reaches the intimacy stage via a major turning point or a 'gray' moment—which isn't as dark as a 'black' moment, but can still be a lot of fun to write.

As a new—if reluctant—pet owner, Rip's life takes on another dimension. Shadows in her mind begin to heal. But "Bear" seems to sense Mac doesn't like dogs. He's never there when Mac is.

A few days later, walking in on what appears to be an animal attack on an elderly man, Rip watches in disbelief as her friendly mutt morphs into a killing machine and attacks the creature. The fight is fast and furious, but the creature escapes.

Realising there is more to this situation than the Council told him, Mac

cannot risk remaining in his badly injured canine form. He calls on his genetic inheritance for instant healing, and changes back to human. In front of Ripley.

6. Intimacy

While this may or may not include sex, it's a definite step forward in the closeness of the relationship. In a character-based synopsis you can spend more time here and explore the nuances of the internal conflicts as they affect your main characters. In a one pager though, you still only have a few lines, so make the words count.

Even terrified, shocked, and furious at his betrayal, Rip handles his explanations better than he'd hoped, and agrees to his suggestion that they work together to capture the rogue. As they investigate Ripley's deceased clients—and the interesting habits of the local pensioner community—a pattern emerges.

7. Reversion (aka 'Happily Ever After Till Breakfast Time')

This is where all the fears your hero or heroine have squashed in order to get to the intimacy stage suddenly get triggered—whether by an internal source or an external stimulus—and he or

she reverts to the default condition. Sometimes this is where the relationship falls apart. Other times it's where there's a huge struggle and a measure of progress. But not a complete victory. You need that later.

When Ripley discovers Mac has learned secrets that mean he's now on the IWC hit list, she has to choose whether to stay with him and risk a repeat of her past trauma. She struggles. Loses. Struggles again.

And decides to stay.

8. Second Stage Co-operation.

Whereas First Stage is a distant armed truce, Second Stage is a genuine working together. It might not be perfect—'perfect' only really happens after the 'black' moment, but it's close enough and with enough emotional investment on both sides that the 'black moment', when it comes, is a gut-wrenching, heart-ripping experience.

Just allude to it here. We're going to flesh it out more in the longer synopses.

With the clock ticking for Mac and with the connivance of Ripley's feisty grandmother

they set a trap that no self-respecting wolf can resist.

9. Black Moment

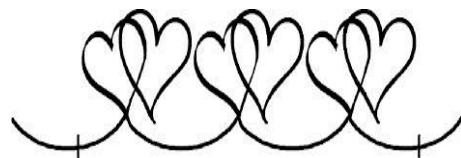
Mac doesn't want Ripley anywhere near danger but he knows she needs to prove something to herself so she can finally move on. Forcing herself to confront her fears of

being helpless in the dark, Ripley chooses to trust Mac to keep her safe as she offers herself as bait to the killer. Just as it seems the rogue has out-foxed them both and Ripley is dead meat, the trap is sprung, and Mac takes him down.

10. Resolution

Unfortunately Ripley's grandmother has her own agenda and exacts pay-back with the help of an axe before Mac and Rip can get all the information they need to solve his case completely.

But they get enough to keep the IWC in line, satisfy the human police, and figure out that, for them, true love means dog hair on the duvet cover.



A CAPITAL AFFAIR

ROMANCE WRITERS OF NEW ZEALAND
20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

A Capital Affair

23rd – 25th August
2013

Intercontinental Hotel,
Wellington

2 Grey Street Wellington,
6011, New Zealand



20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

23—25 AUGUST 2013

YA Comes of Age with Stacy Cantor Abrams

Stacy Cantor Abrams is the editorial director for Entangled's main print lines, both adult and teen fiction, as well as for the short romance digital imprint Bliss. She started in the publishing industry in 2002, most recently leaving a seven-year stint at Bloomsbury Publishing's children's division to join the Entangled team.

With Entangled Stacy has edited such high-calibre and best-selling authors as Roxanne Snopek, Rachel Astor, Lisa Burstein, Rachel Harris, and Ophelia London.

In addition to editing, she has been a freelance copy editor for several major New York publishing houses. She earned her Bachelor's in English at Northwestern University and currently resides in New York City with her husband and too-cute puppy.

Find her on Twitter at [@StacyAbramsEdit](#).

What she's looking for:

Within the YA genre, I'm mostly looking for contemporary romance/coming-of-age, mystery/thriller/suspense, a bit of accessible fantasy, sci-fi, and any sort of high concept plot line that hasn't been seen before.

I'm mostly not looking at all for paranormal, high fantasy, or historical unless it's a particularly accessible time period or concept.

I'm looking to acquire for both our print and digital-first teen lines. Some of my favorite books I've worked on at Entangled (to give an idea of what I'm looking for) are: *Obsidian* by Jennifer Armentrout, *My Super Sweet Sixteenth Century* by Rachel Harris, *Dear Cassie* by Lisa Burstein, *The Reece Malcolm List* by Amy Spalding, and *Relic* by Renee Collins.



Meet Agent, Nalini Akolekar

Nalini Akolekar joined Spencerhill Associates after a lengthy editorial career and several years in advertising sales. Agenting provided the perfect opportunity for combining her editorial instincts with her sales, marketing, and business experience.

Nalini specialises in romance and women's fiction in the adult market, but she also loves thrillers. Many of the new authors she's worked with have gone on to sell multiple books to major publishers.

Would you tell us a bit about the journey to get to where you are today?

When I was a teenager we lived in New York and my cousin came to live with my family while she tried to start a career as a singer. She got a temporary job in a publishing house to help pay her bills while she went to audition. Her career in singing never took off, but she went on to become an excellent editor and a major player in the romance industry. Kate used to bring books home to me from her job and I read them voraciously. I began my training as an editor when she and I would sit over breakfast or over diet Pepsi in the living room and discuss the books that we read. Eventually Kate helped me get my first job in publishing which was as Karen



Solem's assistant when she was the Editorial Director of Silhouette Books. That was back in 1982. After a few years working with Karen and being promoted, I went freelance and continued to work for Harlequin, Silhouette, and several other romance publishers as a freelance reader for the next 15 years. I helped Kate launch the Kismet romance line and also worked for her when she moved to Kensington and started Brava.

What genres do you represent? What are you currently seeking?

I represent all of the sub-genres of romance and also some women's fiction. I continue to seek authors in all of those areas though I have had to become highly selective due to the number of authors I am currently representing.

What tips would you give to a writer pitching to you for the first time?

Try to relax and enjoy the conversation. I'd like to know what you think makes your book stand out from the rest - what is the hook. I'd also like to know a little about your vision for your career as an author. Pitches never go how you expect them to so just relax and we can have a pleasant conversation.

A CAPITAL AFFAIR

Are You Being Funny? with Catherine Robertson

- The spectrum of humour: from farce to one-liners
- Who are today's funny writers?
- What are their styles?
- What humour is currently selling?
- How to craft a really good funny line – and how that skill can help improve your writing overall.
- Recommended reading (and listening)



Bio: Catherine Robertson was born in Wellington, New Zealand. She left for a while to live in San Francisco and Buckinghamshire, but is now back home. She lives in a house by the sea with her husband who sheds bicycle bits, a black labrador who sheds hair, a cat who sheds bits of whatever it's just eaten and two sons who shed all of the above. Her first novel is *The Sweet Second Life of Darrell Kincaid* and her second *The Not So Perfect Life of Mo Lawrence*. Both novels reached number 1 spot on the New Zealand bestseller charts (Catherine is not ashamed to say she did a little dance).

www.catherinerobertson.net

www.facebook.com/catherine.robertson.nzauthor

The Art of Writing a Good Novella with Nalini Singh

A novella is structured differently from a novel - Nalini Singh will be discussing those differences, as well as other points to keep in mind when approaching this short and sweet format.

Nalini presented this workshop at an earlier RWNZ conference, and has kindly agreed to give it again as a result of the increasing number of questions she has had on the topic.



Bio: Nalini Singh is the New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly bestselling author of the Psy-Changeling and Guild Hunter series. Though she's travelled as far afield as the deserts of China, the Highlands of Scotland, and the temples of Japan, it is the journey of the imagination that fascinates her the most. She's beyond delighted to be able to follow her dream as a writer.

You can find out more about Nalini and her books on her website: www.nalinisingh.com Nalini is also on Twitter (www.twitter.com/nalinisingh) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/authornalinisingh)

20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

23—25 AUGUST 2013

Vive the Historical with Zana Bell

Georgette Heyer did it. Diana Gabaldon did it. You can do it too. Create an historical world which readers will inhabit so completely that when they are forced to emerge, they'll come blinking and disorientated back into "real" life.

Using some of the techniques of the great writers, this practical workshop will help you bring history to life; transforming sepia into technicolour and creating your own historical world into which you can transport readers.

No passports needed.



Bio: Zana Bell enjoys variety. So far, she's been published by three different international publishers in three different genres: historical, YA time-travel, and contemporary romance.

In 2008 her historical was voted Single Title 10 Best Books and in 2010 she won a Cataromance Reviewers Award for her superromance.

However, historicals remain her first love and she has a New Zealand historical romantic adventure coming out with Choc Lit in October.

Heroines Don't Take Potty Breaks & Big Emotion in a Small Book with Megan Crane

Heroines Don't Take Potty Breaks: Six Secrets to Building the Bestselling Novel

As writers, we want to write books that will grab readers and hold on tight until the last page. As readers, we want to be taken on that ride! From how to create characters who could never be cardboard to the art of the sizzling sex scene, this workshop will take you through the building blocks of writing books that won't let your readers go.

Big Emotion in a Small Book

Category romances deliver intense reads in short spaces. This workshop will focus on emotion, the foundation of that intensity: how to go deep into your characters, and yourself, to make sure your writing delivers that emotional wallop category readers crave.

Bio:



USA Today bestselling author Megan Crane writes women's fiction, chick lit, work-for-hire YA, and a lot of Harlequin Presents as Caitlin Crews.

She also teaches creative writing classes both online at media-bistro.com and at UCLA Extension's prestigious Writers' Program, where she finally utilises the MA and PhD in English Literature she received from the University of York in York, England.

She currently lives in California, with her animator/comic-book artist husband and their menagerie of ridiculous animals. For more info visit her at www.megancrane.com or www.caitlincrews.com.

A CAPITAL AFFAIR

Pre-Conference Tours: Expressions of Interest Sought

Would you like to see more of Wellington when you come to our beautiful city for the 2013 RWNZ Conference?

Subject to numbers, we are looking at organising the following tours, all departing at approx. 1.30pm from the Intercontinental Hotel:

www.wellingtonrovers.co.nz
Wellington Explorer Half Day tour
(approx. \$80.00 each)

Or:

Lord of the Rings half day tour
(approx. \$80.00 each)

Or:

Charter bus to the Police Training College at Porirua to look at how new recruits assess crime scenes and gather evidence. This would be followed by a visit to the Police Museum.

(approx. \$30.00 each)

Anyone interested in attending one of these sessions please email
morgan.leeann@clear.net.nz
before 8 March 2013.

**This is an expression of interest,
not a registration.
Further details to follow.**

Rudie Raffles

Got your attention?

Good, because it's important, and we're not talking erotica.

Some of our local chapters (indeed, some of our generous individual members) provide wonderful raffle prizes for our annual conference.

Do please spare a thought for the lucky winners who have to transport them home. It's no fun wondering what to do with a fantastic huge raffle basket or box when you're due to board a plane to Australia or Dunedin...

If you're donating a raffle prize, please keep it portable. For sure flossy it up with plenty of cellophane and ribbons so it looks impressive and desirable, but try and keep the weight and size reasonable so it can be taken home without the need to buy an extra suitcase at short notice.

Thank you to everyone who provides our prizes. They're very much appreciated, and certainly add extra pizzazz to the conference. Thank you also to everyone who supplies items for goodie bags.

Now's the right time to start thinking about things like this...raffle prizes, goodie bag items, and of course anyone you might be able to



Online Writing Classes compiled by Julie Rowe

Whodunit? Building a Mystery, Choosing a Sleuth and a Crime

RWAR Mystery/Suspense Chapter, The Kiss of Death (KoD)

Presenter: Billie A Williams

When: March, 2013

Cost: \$15 for KOD members, \$30 for non-members.

Info/Registration: <http://www.rwamysterysuspense.org/coffinClass.php?classdetail=m1.mar>

Class Description: In order to discover whodunit, you need to examine several avenues of mystery to determine a perfect villain to commit the crime. Motive, method, and opportunity are all part of this mix.

About the presenter: Best-selling, award winning Mystery/Suspense author Billie A. Williams is a fiction, non-fiction and poetry author with multiple books published on the craft of writing. Currently, she has over three dozen books and numerous magazine/e-zine articles/columns published. She is also a speaker, instructor, and coach. <http://billiewilliams.com/blog>.

Social Media for Writers and Authors

Presenter: Stacey O'Neale

When: March, 2013

Class Description: Social media can be an aspiring author's best friend. If you know how to use it - it can be helpful in attracting literary agents, publishers, and readers to your work. But with all the available outlets out there, it's hard to know where to concentrate. In this course, we're going to get down and dirty with what's working, how much time to invest, what to do, and especially, what not to do. This course is designed for aspiring authors as well as published authors looking to connect with a larger audience.

About the presenter: Stacey O'Neale is a writer, and a publicist with Entangled Publishing. Her website, *Fantasy Book Addict*, averages over 20,000 hits per month and she has over 15,000 followers on twitter. Most recently, she was a panelist at the BEA's Bloggers convention.

Got High Concept?

Passionate Ink

Presenter: Lori Wilde

When: March 4-29, 2013

Cost: \$15 for Members, \$20 for Non-Members

Info/Registration: <http://www.passionateink.org/workshops/>

Workshop Description: This workshop is designed to pro-

vide you with the tools you'll need to mold your story idea into an intriguing one sentence pitch that can magically unlock closed doors. It's simply the most effective way to capture a publisher's interest.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

1. A step-by-step method for creating a high concept.
2. First aid for low concept books
3. Ways to make a high concept even better
4. Where to find high concept ideas
5. How to think like a high concept writer
6. Creativity and brainstorming exercises
7. Hints and tips from top industry insiders
8. Examples of high concept stories

About the presenter: New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, Lori Wilde has sold 69 novels and novellas to four major New York Publishing houses. She has also served as the RWA National conference workshop chair and PAN retreat chair.

Stretching, Mixing, and Transforming Sentence Recipes (Patterns) to Create a Memorable Story

Orange County Chapter of RWA

Presenter: MM Pollard

When: March 11 - April 7, 2013

Cost: \$30.00 non members or, \$20 OCCRWA members

Info/Register: <http://www.occrwa.org/onlineclassMarch13.html>

About the Class:

Every novel is a collection of related sentences that tells a story. What you say is important, of course, but how you say it may be the difference between forgettable and truly memorable. Over the course of seven lessons, MM Pollard will give you opportunities to play with the basic patterns so that you feel comfortable in using them and show you how change the word order of sentences to create interesting, memorable stories. You will have homework. Your reward for doing your homework on time: MM will edit 1,000 words of your writing.

About the presenter:

As an English teacher for fifteen years, and currently, as acquisitions editor for Black Velvet Seductions, MM has accepted the mission to teach others to find and correct ungrammatical grammar, misused usage, problematic punctuation, and poor writing.

Through her fun workshops - yes, English can be fun - MM has helped many writers improve their language and writing skills.

Chapter Short Story Contest 2012

By Kamy Chetty

Romance Writers of New Zealand Inc.

presents...



SHORT STORY CONTEST 2013

Final Judge: Gaynor Davies Fiction Editor, English Woman's Weekly

OPENS: Thursday, 28 February 2013

CLOSES: Friday, 29 March 2013

ELIGIBILITY: Open to RWNZ members, published and unpublished

SUBMIT: 1800-word (computer count) short story with romantic thread or element (Up to 3 entries by the same author may be entered)

PRIZES: Kindly sponsored by Chapter:

First: \$250 gift voucher

Second: \$150 gift voucher

Third: \$100 gift voucher

ENTRY FEE: \$NZ20.00

EMAIL TO: Contest Manager:

Kristina O' Grady: maple-leaf@hotmail.co.nz

POTENTIAL MARKETS

with P.D.R. Lindsay-Salmon

Alternatepress Limited/eSensual Books

Type: ePublisher.

Open to: All

Seeking: 'Tales of erotic fantasy and contemporary encounters' Plot driven erotica that illustrates the relationship between key characters, ideally with a sex positive slant, but, it should always be valid and meaningful.'

Accepts gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and heterosexual stories.

Length: Short Story, under 7,500 words, Novelette, 7,500 to 17,500 words, Novella, 17,500 - 40,000 words, Novel, 40,000+ words. Note that e-Book/Audio (eB/A) theme anthology stories are 2,000 to 3,500 words.

Response Time: 'reasonable'

Payment: Stories, \$25 - \$50, (depending upon word count) 40% royalties from net sales income.

Website: <http://www.esensualbooks.co.uk>

Email: submiss@alternatepress.co.uk

Guidelines: http://www.esensualbooks.co.uk/for_authors.html

PRISM Book Group

Type: electronic format, may be print later.

Open to: All

Seeking: Novels for Diamond Romance, and Inspired Christian Romance.

Length: Novellas 10,000 words, Novels 85,000 words plus.

Response Time: 'reasonable'.

Payment: 50% of the net Sale Price, i.e. after 3rd parties have been paid their percentage.

Website: www.prismbookgroup.com

Email submissions to the correct editor found at writers' guidelines: www.prismbookgroup.com/submissions.html

Sassy Books (part of John Hunt Publishing)

Type: Print

Open to: All

Seeking: 'Badassery for gutsy girls'

Length: 75,000 to 100,000 words

Response time: Up to three months

Payment: Discussed under contract

Website: www.sassyology.com/sassy-books

Submissions at the website using their specific form guidelines: www.sassyology.com/sassy-books/

Steam eReads

Type: e-publisher

Open to: All

Seeking: All sub-genres of Romantic fiction.

Length: Short and Spicy 15,000 to 30,000 words, novels 55,000 to 90,000 words

Response Time: Around two months

Payment: Discussed under contract

Website: <http://steamereads.com.au>

Email : submissions@steamereads.com.au

Guidelines: <http://steamereads.com.au/submission-guidelines>

Belladonna Publishing

Type: Print and e-book format please note work should be submitted in English, but will also be published in Norwegian and/or Swedish, the home countries of the editors.

Open to: All

Seeking: Young Adult fiction. 'We will read YA manuscripts in all speculative genres'. Stories for anthologies.

Length: Short stories, 3,000 to 10,000 words, novels, 50,000 to 80,000 words.

Response Time: Under 8 weeks.

Payment: US\$120 on publication and a share of royalties from the e-book sales for the anthologies. Novel payment is discussed under contract.

Website: <http://belladonnapublishing.com>

Email: submissions@belladonnapublishing.com;

Guidelines: <http://belladonnapublishing.com/submissions>

White Cat Publications, LLC.

See also: Sam's Dot Publishing imprint and the new imprint, Diversity Publishers.

Type: Print (magazines and books)

Open to: All

Seeking: Romance, horror, mystery, paranormal, poetry, SF and Steam Punk.

Length: Stories and flash fiction, 5,000 words, novels, 50,000 plus.

Response Time: Within three months.

Payment: Paypal or money order at three US cents per word up to 5,000 words for fiction, articles and reviews. Reprints earn one cent a word. Interviews pay US\$15.

Website: <http://www.whitecatpublications.com>

Guidelines: http://www.whitecatpublications.com/?page_id=225

Email: *submissions to the correct magazine address found at the website guidelines.*

Indigo Mosaic Publishing

An interesting venture into publishing by Catherine May who helps writers into the POD publishing of their work. Read the details at the website.

Type: Print and ebook.

Open to: All

Seeking: Short stories for anthologies, any genre as long as the story fits the theme.

Length: 2,000 and 7,500 words.

Response time: Up to ten weeks.

Payment and rights: Discussed under contract which is sent on acceptance.

Website: <http://indigomosaic.webs.com>

Email: indigomosaic@hotmail.com

Guidelines: <http://indigomosaic.webs.com/>

INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS *with Angela Bissell*

Romance Through The Ages Contest (Hearts through History RWAmerica)

Deadline: March 15, 2013

Eligibility: Unpublished and published authors.

Enter: First 30 pages of your manuscript plus one to two page synopsis (not judged).

Fee: US\$25

More info: www.heartsthroughhistory.com

PRISM Contest for Published Authors (Fantasy, Futuristic & Paranormal RWAmerica)

Deadline: March 15, 2013

Eligibility: All authors of traditional and self-published books.

Enter: Three copies of book with 2012 copyright (novels 40,000+ words; novellas 20,000-40,000 words).

Fee: US\$35

More info: www.romance-ffp.com

Spring into Romance Contest (San Diego RWAmerica)

Deadline: March 16, 2013

Eligibility: Unpublished in book-length fiction within the last three years.

Enter: First 25 pages of your manuscript including prologue if applicable.

Fee: US\$25

More info: www.rwasd.com

Touch of Magic Contest (Central Florida RWAmerica)

Deadline: March 20, 2013

Eligibility: Unpublished in book-length fiction within the last five years.

Enter: First 25 pages of your manuscript plus three page synopsis (not judged).

Fee: US\$30

More info: www.cfrwa.com

Fire and Ice Contest (Chicago-North RWAmerica)

Deadline: March 22, 2013 (entries capped at 120)

Eligibility: Not published or contracted in fiction of 20,000 words or more within the last five years.

Enter: First 6,000 words of your manuscript (projected length of at least 50,000 words).

Fee: US\$25-\$30

More info: www.chicagonorthrwa.org

Southern Heat Contest (East Texas RWAmerica)

Deadline: March 31, 2013

Eligibility: Unpublished in category entered in the last five years.

Enter: First 25 pages of your manuscript including prologue if applicable.

Fee: US\$20-25

More info: www.easttexasrwa.com

Duel on the Delta Contest (River City Romance Writers)

Deadline: March 31, 2013

Eligibility: Unpublished in the last five years and/or uncontracted within the last three years.

Enter: First 20 pages of your manuscript plus optional one page, single spaced synopsis.

Fee: US\$25

More info: www.rivercityromancewriters.org

Fool for Love Contest (Virginia RWAmerica)

Deadline: April 1, 2013

Eligibility: Unpublished and published categories.

Enter: Opening chapters of your manuscript up to 35 pages maximum.

Fee: US\$35

More info: www.virginiaromancewriters.com

The Magic Moment Contest (Heart and Scroll RWAmerica)

Deadline: April 1, 2013

Eligibility: Unpublished within the last five years.

Enter: Any ten pages which include first meeting between hero & heroine, plus one page synopsis (not judged).

Fee: US\$25-30

More info: www.heartandscroll.com

The Sheila Contest (Valley Forge Romance Writers)

Deadline: April 12, 2013

Eligibility: RWA members unpublished in category entered in the last five years.

Enter: Total maximum 35 pages including synopsis of up to five pages.

Fee: US\$30

More info: www.vfrw.com

Woos, Hoos, and News

Celebrating our members' achievements.

To be included on this page, email your successes to Jean Drew on jeandrew@extra.co.nz



Kylie Griffin's *Alliance Forged* (#2 Light Blade) is an Australian Romance Readers Association award finalist in the Sci-Fi/ Fantasy/Futuristic section.



Alliance Sworn (#3 Light Blade) will be released 2nd April 2013 (USA/ Canada).

Barbara DeLeo has signed a new three book contract with Indulgence Books @ Entangled Publishing. The first book, *The Millionaire Makeover*, will be out mid 2013. <http://www.barbaradeleo.com>



Kris Pearson's romantic comedy, *The Bonk Squad*, about a group of Kiwi romance writers, is a new release on both Amazon and through all the Smashwords retailers.

The Bonk Squad is available from <http://amzn.com/B00B0D9ESK> and <http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/273837>

Nina Darling w/a Lena Dowling has contracts for her novella *A Convict's Bounty Bride* (March) and category style contemporary *Legally Addicted* (May) with Escape Publishing.

Frances Housden's *The Chieftan's Curse*, from Escape Publishing, reached #1 on iTunes Books Historical Romance.



FIRST SALE: New member Serena Clarke is excited to announce that Crimson Romance had accepted her debut novel *All Over the Place*.

Julie McKechnie, writing as Julie Mac, has sold her first book to Harlequin's new Australian company, Escape Publishing. A contemporary romance, *A Father At Last* is available on Escape's website from March 1.



Yvonne Lindsay's March release, *One Secret Night*, has received a four-star review from RT Reviews. It is book three in her The Master Vintners series.

S.E.Gilchrist is excited to advise Escape Publishing has accepted her short futuristic story, *The Portal*, for publication on the March 1.



She is also indie publishing her second erotic fantasy novella, *Bound By Lies*, this month.



REGIONAL CONVENORS

Auckland:

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RWNZ News Around the Regions

Keeping in touch with each other.

Auckland

A bumper turn out of thirty three members attended our first Auckland Chapter meeting for the year. Barbara Clendon gave us a deeply illuminating talk on current authors and reader trends. Thank you so much, Barbara – highly appreciated! Three new members joined the meeting. It was a pleasure to welcome you and we hope to see you again next month. In March, Lisa Gardiner (who writes as Lisa Whitefern) is scheduled to talk to us on Developing and Sustaining Suspense. Lisa has given us superb talks in the past. She is a careful and thorough researcher. The March meeting will be Saturday 2nd at 12.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. at the usual venue of the Three Kings Tennis Club Rooms. Please bring a plate to share, a gold coin donation and cash for the raffles. Pamela Gervai

Hawkes Bay

The Hawke's Bay group has been busy with individual writing goals. We still make most of our contact through email and this seems to work best with our group as we are quite spread out.

If anyone is interested in joining our group please contact Kristina at maple-leaf@hotmail.co.nz

Wellington/Kapiti

Because Meryl is now very ill, our first meeting of 2013 took place at Kris's. A dozen guests fought their way through the tomatoes on the front porch to share news. Leeann is still being courted by two publishers. Kris has launched The Bonk Squad – about a group of romance writers. Diana is pleased to be back from snowy Norfolk and has received detailed and encouraging revision suggestions from Pippa Roscoe at M&B. Liz read an excerpt of a novel she and a friend have written, and we passed what we hoped were helpful comments...

Next meeting will be Saturday March 2nd. at 1 pm. Juliet is hosting at 79A Churton Drive, Churton Park. Our different venues this year will all be advised by email. (Ellie in April, Susan in May etc.)

Christchurch

Disappointing turnout, however we had a visitor from Auckland who entertained us with her 3 books and her experiences overseas. Great night. March Meeting cancelled – Sorry I'm going tramping for 5 days.

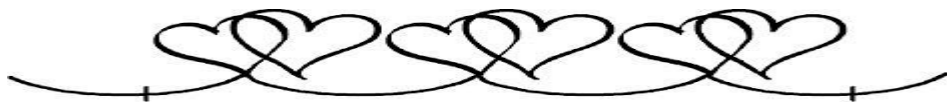
April Meeting is 8th April 2013 at 7.00 pm, 283 Memorial Ave, Christchurch

Nelson

Our first meeting for 2013 was Saturday 9 February. We started the New Year 'retiring' to a new venue. From now on we will meet at the Rutherford Retirement Home in Stoke at the courtesy of our member Gillian Lewis, who had organised an excellent large and sunny salon for our fast growing group. It even impressed those of us, who hasn't become of retiring age yet.

After a welcome drink of pink alcohol free bubbly, Annika dug in to the busy agenda. We started with a quick read of a pre-meeting exercise – a romantic take of 'What I did on my holiday' of max 100 words. Setting dates for our next meetings and critique sessions. Deciding who would read their short stories or pieces out of a novel at Richmond Library at lunchtime on 28 March – something we all look forward to. Brainstorming an anthology of romance short stories we might publish this year. Also, Judy was asked to rekindle her contact with Nalini Singh and ask her to do a workshop for us here in Nelson. Watch this space. Needless to say, the tea trolley with not just Annika's heart shaped chocolate cake, but also the beautiful and yummy slices & cookies our new venue's caterer shouted us. Heaps of thanks to Gillian and the manager of Rutherford Retirement Home.

First critique meeting for the year was held at Judy's place on Monday 11/2, an excellent meeting as always. What would we do without each other's feedback and editing? Thanks Judy for hosting us. Our next meeting will be on Saturday 9 March and critique group meets next time 25 February.



Kara School of Writing

Learn from some of the most experienced practitioners in the business.

Polishing Your Work: Rewriting, editing and enhancing your manuscript (of any genre).
At Karaveer Writers' Retreat, 10 minutes from Whangarei

March 9-10 2013, 9.30 - 4.00 each day. An extended critiquing session over two days.

Individual attention as well as group and private sessions with multi-published top-selling author and writing tutor Daphne Clair de Jong and NZ's most experienced independent freelance editor, Lesley Marshall NZAMA .

Help-yourself lunch provided.

Coming from afar? Book a private single room at \$25 per night. Availability limited.

Dinner available or dine in Whangarei.

Contact Daphne@daphneclair.com



Cath Bennett of Glenfield, Auckland.

Donna Capil, Stoke, Nelson.

Kelly Van Der Linde, Mairangi Bay, Auckland.

Finella McKenzie, Brighton, UK.

Vicki Hall, Auckland.

There are three rules
for writing a novel.
Unfortunately,
no one knows what
they are.
W. Somerset Maugham

But wait....there's more.....

Before I say anything else, I would like to thank everyone for their patience last month and for all the kind messages of encouragement. This month has been a little less stressful and by the time we get the next issue out, we should be just about on top of things. Hopefully.....

Marjan has been busy this month with the slightly distracting issue of international house shifting, so I'm afraid you've had to make do with just me and The Small Black Cats this month (they're great company but not very good proof readers...)

A couple of housekeeping issues before I go much further. I appear to be missing a couple of regional reports and I'm not sure if this is because there was no meeting in your area or because cyber gremlins are stopping our emails from connecting as I do know there are a few people having trouble getting in touch. If you are ever having trouble connecting with me via cyberspace, send me a text on 021 105 8981.

Also, we have had some lovely offers of help with writing articles. Thank you to those people who have offered and please watch your inbox in the coming week as I will have my editor's hat on and handing out assignments. If you would like to write for H2H or have an idea for an article, please, please, please don't be shy. This is your newsletter and we want to hear from you. And just to keep you on your toes—the deadline for next month is March 12.

So, dear readers, the big focus at the moment of course is The Conference. Over the next couple of months we will run as much as we can to get you in the right mood for the big event. Don't forget to organise your hotel rooms sooner rather than later. You might even be able to convince The Other Half to come along with you by telling him he could go to the Bledisloe match. However, be warned...mine thought this was a great idea for about five minutes, then asked "you're suggesting I go to rugby. Why? What are you up to?"

Right—that's about it from the editor's corner this month. I am now going to dive into the workshop material I've been resisting the urge to read for the past two weeks. We won't even mention my WIP which has given up on me completely and is sulking in the corner muttering things about 'never going to get The Call at this rate.'

I do hope this finds everyone writing, editing, or dancing around the kitchen happily waving publishing contracts.

Stay well, stay safe, stay happy

Angelique & The Small Black Cats
(angelique@angeliquejurd.com)

and

Marjan

(marjan@marjan.co.nz)

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