

# Heart to Heart

November 2015

ISSN 2324-1799

## Featuring...

- ♥ Saddle Up and Get Your Writing Going!
- ♥ The Basics: Writers' Glossary
- ♥ Twitter Hashtags for Writers
- ♥ Member News
- ♥ Chapter news from around the regions
- ♥ Contests and Market News

### Survey thanks

Many thanks to all those who completed our 2015 Conference Attendee survey and congratulations to **Wendy Vella** who won the respondents' lucky draw prize.



# WE'RE LIVE!

## RENEW YOUR RWNZ MEMBERSHIP

### ONLINE NOW AT:

## WWW.ROMANCEWRITERS.CO.NZ



# Welcome!

Hi Everyone

It's November and Christmas is just around the corner! A time of celebration with our loved ones; I hope you have been busy writing and making progress in finishing that chapter, finishing that quota of pages for the day, completing a difficult scene, and most importantly that book. Good luck to those who are doing NaNoWriMo this month.

I would like to say thank you and best wishes to Lorna Croft for her pedantic proofreading and editing skills and for being a great member of the H2H team. Another thank you to Anna and Norah for their help and to Shar for putting our awesome newsletter together; I feel blessed working with such creative and talented people. Also to Pamela Gervai, it is an award that is truly well deserved. Our Auckland Chapter would be lost without you. Thank you for all that you do.

I hope you enjoy our November issue. Welcome to our new members and congratulations to our latest crop of successes featured on the WooHoos page. You continue to inspire me .

Happy Writing!

Sapi Heald, Editor



We would like to thank **Viv Adams** for her time and effort in her role as the Otago Chapter Co-ordinator. Best wishes Viv!

If you are interested in taking this role on, please feel free to email our Vice President, Bernadette Doube on: [rwnzvicepresident1@gmail.com](mailto:rwnzvicepresident1@gmail.com)

## New Members

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

Ashlee Dolamore  
Maria King  
Maria Hall  
Jonathon Hornibrook  
Debb Crompton

*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!

Hope you're all up and rolling with your writing now!

Your Exec is nearly up to speed with the changeover, thanks to Gio, Leeann, Iona, Tania, Kirsten and several other past officers! Thanks for your patience while we finalised the banking procedures and began modifying the website...

Speaking of the website, the best news of all is that we employed Frauke Spanuth of Crocodesigns. In the few weeks we have been working with her, she has shown herself to be one of the most responsive and effective web designers we've ever met. Nothing has been too difficult for her to sort and we're on.

SO, by the time you read this, the new Membership page will be up and running, our first website goal. If you haven't already, please go ahead and renew your membership now! We're ready for you! Hope you enjoy the experience!

We will retain the internet banking option and initially Paypal, but when our SwipeHQ system is up and running, it will replace Paypal. This will give our members the option of using internet banking or credit card to pay, without the hassles of Paypal. The new online registration system feeds directly into a spreadsheet, eliminating many time-consuming steps where errors may occur, simplifying the Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's tasks. This should make our RWNZ world a much better place for all of our members and officers. SwipeHQ will automatically send receipts to those members using it, assisting our Membership Secretary no end!

Next on the website agenda are the Contests pages, and then the complete site overhaul.

Have a great month! I'm looking forward to hearing what you're all doing! [NaNoWriMo](#) started 1 November, and for those of you encouraging younger writers, [NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program](#) lets them pick their own word-count goal! I led a group of year nine's through it last year. It was great!

Take care and Good Writing!

Lizzi Thompson  
President, RWNZ



# 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)

**Frances Housden's** latest release, *THE CHIEFTAIN'S DAUGHTER*, hit #1 on iBooks in New Zealand and Australia! *The Chieftain's Daughter* is the penultimate, book 5, in her Chieftain series.

**Steff Green's** latest novel, *WITCH HUNTER* is the first in a steamy medieval paranormal romance series about the forbidden love between a witch and a witch hunter. The book came out in September. Available on Amazon in ebook and print: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B010QW8EEK>

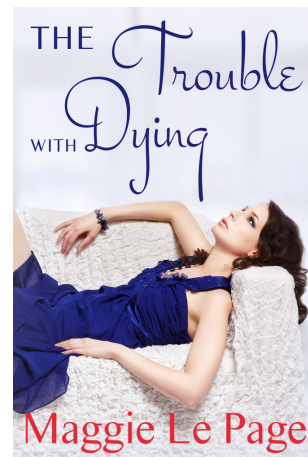
**Karen Browning** w/a Maggie Le Page's, *THE TROUBLE WITH DYING*, has been awarded an Honorable Mention in the 2015 InD'Tale RONE Awards (Suspense category).

**Sally Rigby** w/a Sara Hantz, released her latest novel, *FALLING FOR THE WRONG GUY*, published in the Teen Crush imprint with Entangled, October 12.

**Toni Stephens'** w/a Toni J Strawn, first book *MOMENT OF WEAKNESS* was released on October 13 by Samhain Publishing. Two further books in the One Moment series under contract.

**Wendy Vella's** latest contemporary romance in her Lake Howling Series, *HOW SWEET IT IS*, was released this month.

Congratulations to **Michelle Vernal**, whose novel *THE TRAVELLER'S DAUGHTER* has been shortlisted for a Best Author Published Book Award with Love Stories UK. Winners announced 18 November. Good luck Michelle!



# SADDLEUP AND GET GOING!

BY LIZZI THOMPSON

## Tips For Wannabe Writers to Start and FINISH That Novel!

Starting, and *finishing*, a novel can be a daunting prospect, but you can do it if you're willing to be a little disciplined and try a few different ways of doing things. I've compiled a few of the tips that have made the biggest difference to me in my journey as a writer. I hope something here will help you!

**1. Write...Just write.**

Get it out of your head and down on paper or on your computer, word processor or whatever you use.

**2. Plan your writing in the best way for you.**

It may take some time to figure out what that best way really is. Some people are Planners (plot their novel out ahead of time), some are Pantsers (write by the seat of their pants) and some are a combination of the two, as I am. I write historicals, so I automatically have a timeline to work my story into. Once I plot out my basic story, with a solid framework offered by the real timeline (planning), I let my characters go to work and tell me the story (pantsing).

**3. Let go of that 'internal editor'.**

While you write your rough draft, just write whatever comes out. It might be junk, but so *what*? That's the beauty of a rough draft: you can edit it later. You can't edit a blank page, so get on with it and progress your story, instead of getting stuck and giving up somewhere back on Chapter 1 or 2.

**4. Do NaNoWriMo this November!** (or whatever month suits you! ~ Ed.)

NaNoWriMo is a fun, worldwide, online-linked program where from 1-30 November of every year participants drive towards their goal of writing 50,000 words of their own novel. Yes, 50K words. Why would anyone want to put themselves through that? For me, it's about getting better at 1) and 3). You can't edit a blank page. (yes, I already said that—it's that important)



**5. Find a time to write every day.**

Not most days, every day. Finding a time to write undisturbed is not always possible and you may have to get creative. I like to write in bed, before I get caught up in everything I see needs doing around the place. This required changing my bedtime so I am awake before everyone else starts moving around and needing my attention!

**6. Make a Daily Writing Pact.**

In his excellent book: *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, Stephen King suggests making an agreement with yourself to write a certain number of words every day, and keeping to it. No, you don't get Sundays off. Or Mondays. This is not a restaurant. If you want to be an author, act like one, and write. Even at 500 words per day, in 100 days or just over three months, you will have written 50,000 words. At 1000 words per day, in the same time period, you'll have completed the draft of that 100,000 word novel you've been dreaming about. For a professional writer, he suggests 2000 words per day.



Do the maths. It works.

- 7.** It's good to write what you know, it adds insights that others may never have considered, but I think it's also good to write what you don't know much about, using it as a stimulus to learn about things that interest you and keep yourself fresh! If you choose to do this, however, find people who do know about those things you've just learned, to ensure you get it right! Especially if it's about horses. Horse owners (including yours truly) seem to be intolerant of writers who don't know their stuff and still try to write about horses. For me, regardless of the intrinsic value of the rest of the story, if a writer doesn't get the horse parts right, he or she has lost my confidence, and I simply won't read it.
- 8.** If you're a beginning writer, you might read through some of the books mentioned below before you get started. If you've already done that draft, definitely read them before you go on.

*Self-Editing for Fiction Writers: How to Edit Yourself Into Print* by Renni Browne and Dave King.  
*The Novel Writer's Toolkit* by Bob Mayer and Jen Talty  
*The Emotion Thesaurus*, by Angela Ackerman and Becca Puglisi

I've met many people who say: "I started writing a novel once, but never finished it." I'll bet my boots they kept going back to edit. How many of these people do you know? Ask them. It doesn't have to happen to you. Only you control your writing destiny.

**Go for it!**



*Lizzi Thompson, current RWNZ President, writes as Lizzi Tremayne. You can find her at [www.lizzitremayne.com](http://www.lizzitremayne.com)*

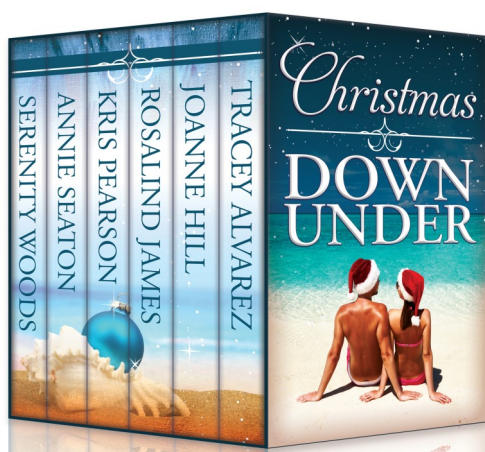
# Christmas Down Under

By Kris Pearson

American author Rosalind James, who writes the 'Escape to New Zealand' books about handsome non-existent All Blacks, is again teaming with Annie Seaton, Serenity Woods, Tracey Alvarez, Joanne Hill and Kris Pearson to bring you a boxed set of Christmas-themed novels as a special promotion. It will be 99 cents for six books, and exclusive to Amazon for November and December.

Rosalind is currently visiting New Zealand, and Tracey and I shouted her lunch in Wellington recently. She landed (late) in a gusty gale, and we went to the Spruce Goose in Lyall Bay – a bustling café in the old original NAC terminal. The waves crashed on the beach opposite and planes roared up and down right beside us as we chatted and planned and gossiped and got to know each other face to face instead of long distance online. One of the things she told us was that she'd had an email from Ritchie McCaw's aunt, commenting favourably on her rugby books. That must have been a nervous experience!

Christmas Downunder is on sale now at [Amazon](http://Amazon).



## Would you like to give back to RWNZ and join the awesome Heart to Heart Newsletter team?

We need a person (or persons—job share is fine) to help format this newsletter each month. Publisher or InDesign skills (and programme) required.

Any takers? Email Shar or Sapi for more details:

sapiheald@xtra.co.nz

sbarratt@xtra.co.nz

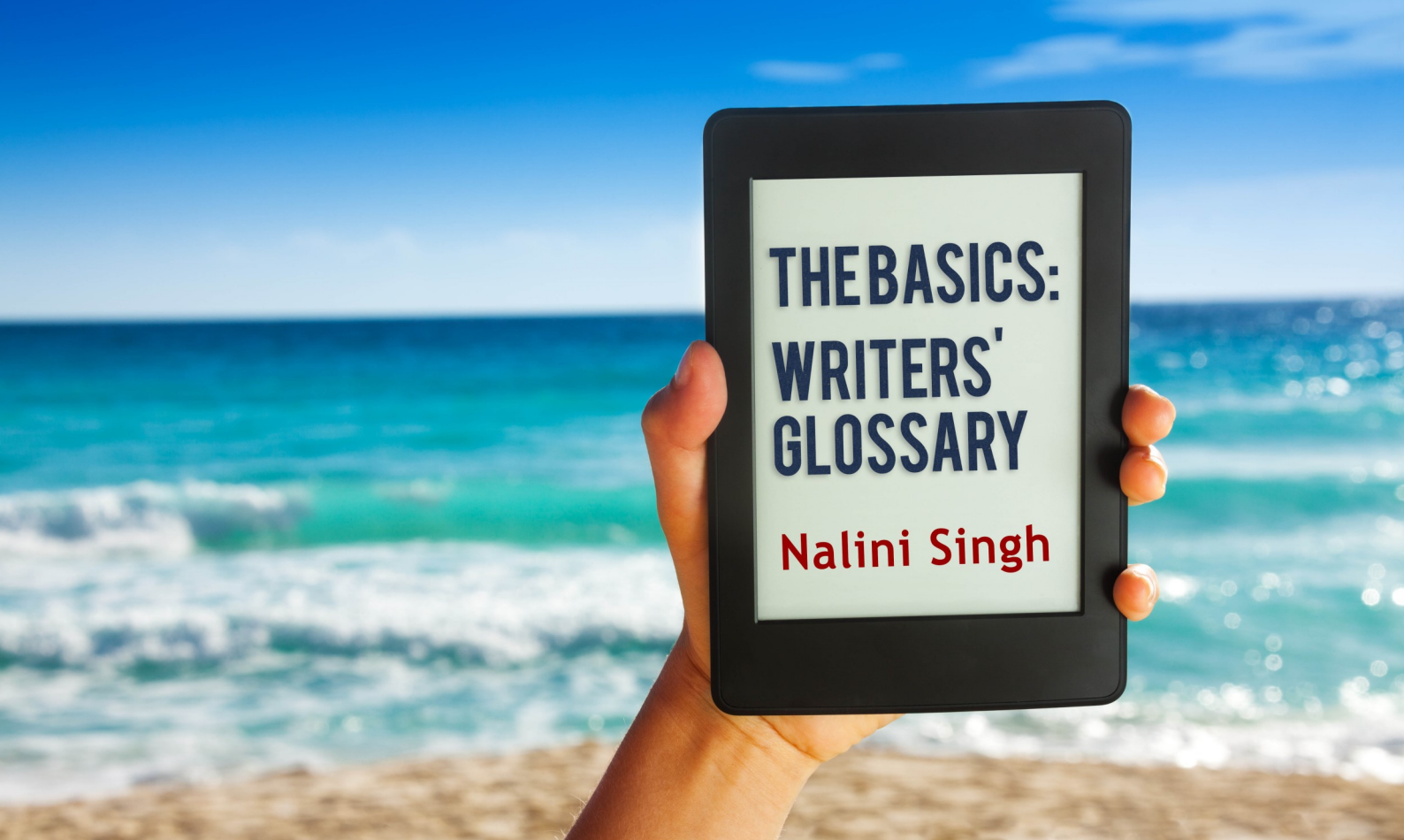
## *A note from Pamela ...*

Dear RWNZ,

I am blown away yet again by the warm accolade posted in October's H2H. It's 'enough already' to be awarded the lovely Jean Drew trophy – so unexpected - as Volunteer for the Year. I've felt blessed to have the role as Auckland Chapter Convener as it's a real pleasure to take the meetings for such a delightful group of people. Romance Writers are the best! Really, you make the work that's entailed a lot of fun. And you're all so inspiring too. Writing is often a lonely and disheartening business. These monthly meetings with our great speakers (most of whom come from the ranks of RWNZ) encourage all of us who attend, to get back to that keyboard.

Thank you so much everyone. Huge group hug!

**Pamela Gervai**



*I recently attended a romance writers conference and had a fantastic time. I also noticed something interesting – that just like in any other profession, experienced writers use a kind of shorthand about their work that speeds up communication. However it tends to leave some of the newer people floundering. Of course that's not on purpose and most people are happy to explain, but who wants to ask, right? So here's a list of some common terms used by writers.*

The list is by no means exhaustive and the definitions are my own (use at your own risk! ). If you think of something I haven't covered, email it to me and I'll have it added during the next set of updates. (Thanks to the Brainstorming Desirables for their suggestions on this article).

**Advance:** The payment made to a writer prior to the publication of a book. The full term is "Advance Against Royalties", which means that a writer is only entitled to royalties once their book has sold enough copies to 'pay for' the advance.

**ARC:** Advanced Reader Copy/Advanced Review Copy. In other words the copy of a book sent out pre-publication to reviewers and booksellers.

**Backstory:** The histories and lives of the characters before the point at which a book begins.

**Backlist:** All the books that an author has written.

**BIAW:** When writers attempt to write a Book In A Week

**BIAM:** Book In a Month

**BICHOK:** Butt In Chair Hands On Keyboard ie. Get to work!



# THE BASICS: WRITERS' GLOSSARY

**Category book:** Also referred to as **Series** books, these are books that are released every month as part of a **line** (see below). Examples include Silhouette Desire and Mills & Boon Presents. A distinguishing feature of category books is that they have a similar cover look and promise the reader a certain type of experience (ie. Desire novels are passionate & provocative).

**Continuity:** A series of books written by different authors but using the same continuing backstory. For example, the Ashtons continuity, for which I wrote *Awaken the Senses*.

**Crit Partner/Group:** Writers who come together to critique each other's work.

**Full:** A complete manuscript.

**Galleys:** The final version of a book that an author gets to see and make changes to.

**GMC:** Goal, Motivation & Conflict

**HEA:** Happy Every After ending

**HFN:** Happy For Now ending

**Hybrid:** This is where the author publishes both through a Traditional Publisher and Self Publishes.

**Line:** Denotes which category imprint a book belongs to (eg. Desire, Special Edition, Nocturne etc)

**Metadata:** All the peripheral information attached to your book that helps readers search and find it eg. keywords, backcover blurb, title etc.

**MS/MSS:** Manuscript(s)

**Partial:** Usually the first three chapters of a manuscript (often asked for by agents or editors looking at new material).

**POV:** Point of View

**Query:** In most cases, this is the first point of contact with agents and editors. Details vary but in its most basic form it's a short letter setting out: (1) why you're querying this particular publisher, agent or line, (2) the précis of your book, and (3) any relevant details about yourself eg. contest wins.

**R:** Rejection Letters or Emails. These come in a number of types, from *Form* – where only the name is changed, to *Personalized* – where the editor tells the writer something about why they're rejecting the work. If you get one of the latter, celebrate! Editors are busy people. If they took the time to personalize your letter, it probably means they see promise in your writing.

**Royalties:** The payments made to a writer after they've earned out their advance.

**RS:** Romantic Suspense

# THE BASICS: WRITERS' GLOSSARY

**RWA:** Romance Writers of America: The biggest professional organization out there for those of us who write in the romance genre.

**Self-pub/Self-publishing** (also known as Indie/Independent Publishing): Where a writer acts as his or her own publisher. As part of that, they might contract with others for cover art, editing, and formatting among other things.

**Single Title/ST:** ST's are the books that fall outside category fiction. They don't fit into any 'line' and tend to be the 'bigger' books. That's a very basic generalization as some category books are close to ST length (eg. Silhouette Superromance).

**ST:** Can also mean Sexual Tension

**Sub:** A submission, either to an agent or a publisher

**Trad-pub/Traditional publishing:** This is where the writer writes the book, then hands it over to a publisher for editing, cover creation, distribution etc. Examples of well known traditional publishers are: Penguin, Harlequin, Simon and Schuster etc.

**TBB:** Books that are To Be Bought

**TBR:** Books that are To Be Read

**Vanity Press:** A publisher that charges money to publish work. *This not normal practice!* For more detailed discussions, simply type the subject into any search engine.

**YA:** Young Adult



NYT and USA Today Bestseller, Nalini Singh, has been a member of Romance Writers of New Zealand for almost twenty years. She is the author of the bestselling Psy/Changeling, Guild Hunter and Rock Kiss series. Find out more about her work and advice for writers at [www.nalinisingh.com](http://www.nalinisingh.com)



### **The Emerald Award (Romance Writers of Australia)**

Deadline: November 16th, 2015.

Eligibility: RWA members only. Categories: Aspiring, or Emerging with no works 10K+ commercially available.

Enter: The first 5,000 words of your unpublished romance or romantic elements manuscript (10K+). Entries are by email. Entrants who reach the second round will need to submit their full manuscript.

Fee: AUS\$35.

More Info: <http://www.romanceaustralia.com/p/109/Emerald>.

### **The Emerald Pro 2015-16 (Romance Writers of Australia)**

Deadline: November 16th, 2015.

Eligibility: RWA members only. Categories: Established, or Emerging with works of fiction commercially available. The entry must be in a different subgenre from your published works, and must not be commercially available.

Enter: The first 5,000 words of your manuscript.

More Info: <http://www.romanceaustralia.com/p/213/Emerald-Pro>.

### **National Readers' Choice Awards**

Deadline: Deadline for entry is December 1, 2015. Books must be received by January 15, 2016.

Eligibility: An original copyright date of 2015, or "First US Printing" date of 2015 as evidenced by the copyright page or a letter from the publisher, and must have been available for sale sometime during 2015.

Enter: An electronic book will be accepted as an entry if it is submitted in either perfect bound or spiral bound, galley-printed book form with an ISBN (no 3-ring binders) and evidence of copyright date of 2015 is provided.

Fee: US\$30-35.

More: <http://okrwa.com/contests/nrca/>.

### **Great Expectations (North Texas RWA)**

Deadline: Tuesday, December 1, 2015 (Early Bird Entry fee ends) Sunday, January 3, 2016 (Final Deadline).

Eligibility: This contest is open to all authors who have never been published in book-length romantic fiction as well as authors who have not been contracted or published in the entered category during the last three years (during 2013, 2014, or 2015).

Enter: 5,000 word entry limit instead of page count. NO synopsis or blurb.

**SWERVE: E-ROMANCE AT ST MARTIN'S PRESS, USA**  
e-books - perhaps a print version.

### SEEKING

Novels and novellas in all the sub-genres of romance and is open to risky, unusual and off-beat plots and characters.

### LENGTH

25,000 to 40,000 words and 50,000 to 100,000 words.

### PAYMENT

Discussed under contract but the choice of royalties and an advance, or higher royalties

### DETAILS

Website: <http://us.macmillan.com/static/smp/swerve> sub via the online system

### STRIGIDAE PUBLISHING

brand new Small Press

### SEEKING

quality genre fiction from today's new, and established, authors.' The editorial team focus is on the horror, science fiction, fantasy, paranormal, paranormal romance, and speculative genres.

### LENGTH

short stories of 3,000 to 12,000 words, novelettes of 12,000 to 25,000 words, novella of 25,000 to 60,000 words and novels of 60,000 to 120,000 words

### PAYMENT

through royalties : 50% of the publisher's gross receipts from online sales of print and electronic versions of the novel are paid to the author. 50% of the publisher's net receipts from physical sales of print and electronic versions of the novel are paid to the author. 50% of the publisher's net receipts from audiobook sales of the novel are paid to the author.

### DETAILS:

**Strigidae Publishing website:** <http://strigidaepublishing.com>;  
**guidelines:** <http://strigidaepublishing.com/for-authors-2/novel-submissions>

### 'WRITE TO MEOW' ANNUAL ANTHOLOGY PUBLISHED BY GREY WOLFE PUBLISHING.

short stories for charity . **SEEKING:** short stories and personal essays, any genre,; and poetry, with 'a central theme or character involving cats.'

### LENGTH

under 8,000 words, poetry under 45 lines

### PAYMENT

one copy for one-time print publication rights.

### DETAILS

**Grey Wolfe Publishing,** <http://greywolfepublishing.com>

### 'ALTERNATE HILARITIES 5' FROM STRANGE MUSINGS PRESS

**e-books,** 'Alternate Hilarities 5' is an anthology.

**SEEKING:** The editor seeks flash and short fiction which 'deals with the afterlife and it needs to be funny.' Genres: Fantasy, Science Fiction Paranormal and Horror

**LENGTH:** flash fiction, 500 to 1,500 words and short fiction, 1,501 to 6,000 words.

**PAYMENT :** half cent per word, a copy and 1 share of royalties for flash fiction and one cent a word, a copy and 2 shares of royalties for short fiction.

### DETAILS

<http://www.strangemusingspress.com/p/strange-musings-press-is-looking-for.html>

**email subs to:** [Submissions@StrangeMusingsPress.com](mailto:Submissions@StrangeMusingsPress.com)

### PODCAST MARKETS

'Mash Stories' is one of the most delightful podcasts, provides excellent feedback to writers.

**SEEKING:** great stories using the 3 randomly selected words. Flash fiction of any genre is accepted.

**LENGTH:** 500-word story

**PAYMENT:** story selected as best US\$100

**DETAILS:** 'Mash Stories' website: <http://mashstories.com>



# HOOT! HOOT!

## Romance Writers of Australia announces final OWL for 2015



### Writing Satisfying Novellas & Short Stories with Carla Caruso

Today's authors are using shorter yarns to write prequels or 'in-between' books to keep fans satiated in between longer reads, using the art-form to dabble in self-publishing, and to give readers worldwide a free taste-test of their writing style – a 'try before you buy'. Tinier tales are also a good way to give writers a 'breather' in between longer projects and to keep their writing muscle flexed when their life is too busy for anything more.

If you're planning to enter RWA or RWNZ short story contests, or just want to give shorter story-writing a go, this course will give you the skills to make your fun-sized yarn sing! By the end of the course participants will have fleshed out the plot outline of a short story or novella and have much of their piece written.

**Course Dates:** 30/11/2015 - 27/12/2015. **Cost:** RWA-Member - \$25.00/Non RWA-Member - \$35.00

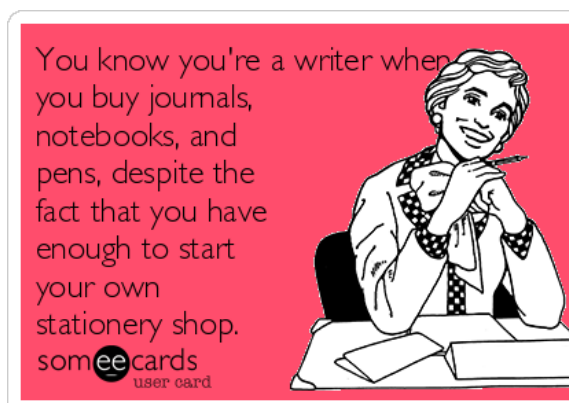
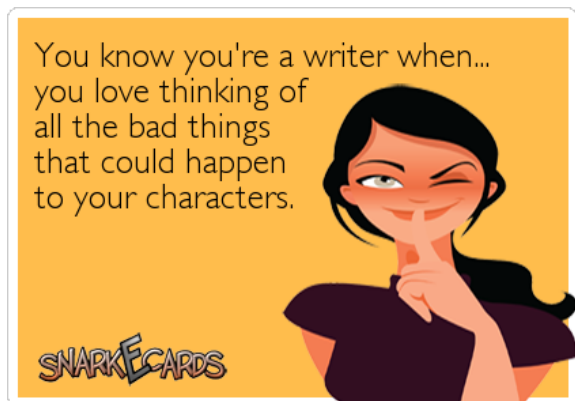
**You can find out more at :** <http://www.romanceaustralia.com/owl/16>



Carla Caruso was born in Adelaide, Australia, and only 'escaped' for three years to work as a magazine journalist and stylist in Sydney. Previously, she was a gossip columnist and fashion editor.

These days, she writes romantic comedy novels in between playing mum to one-year-old twin boys. Carla's books include *Catch of the Day*, *Cityglitter*, *Second Chance*, the 'Astonvale' rom-com mystery series starting with *A Pretty Mess*, and more.

Carla is a co-editor of the RWA monthly newsletter, *Hearts Talk*, and a columnist for *ARRA's* magazine. Visit [www.carlacaruso.com.au](http://www.carlacaruso.com.au), 'Carla Caruso Author' on Facebook, or @CarlaCaruso79 on Twitter.





*by Shar Barratt*

Using Hashtags (#) is a great way to maximise your use of twitter. Hashtags are used to: group posts on similar topics, track trends and topical news, search for specific information or topics, connect you with readers and fellow writers, and, most importantly, get your tweets noticed amongst the tweet stream!

Before you go #hashtagcrazy, there are some rules you should follow:

- Don't use more than three hashtags per tweet
- Don't #hashtag #several #words #in #a #row in the #body #of #your #tweet—see how #annoying it is?
- Use the appropriate hashtags for your tweets
- Be natural and don't spam—that's the quickest way to lose followers

There are a tonne of hashtags out there for the writing community and Twitter is constantly evolving. A few minutes of googling will give you lots of hashtag lists, but in the meantime, here are my Top Fifty (or so) to get you started:

## **Genre**

#Romance  
#Erotica  
#Paranormal  
#RomanticSuspense  
#UrbanFantasy  
#WomensFiction  
#YA

## **Books and Reading**

#Books  
#BookWorm  
#GreatReads  
#IndieThursday  
#MustRead  
#WhatToRead

## **ePublishing and eBooks**

#Amazon  
#eBook  
#BookBuzz  
#eReaders  
#ePubChat  
#iPad  
#Kindle  
#KindleBargain  
#Kobo  
#KPD (Kindle Publishing Direct)  
#Nook  
#D2D (Draft 2 Digital)  
#SmashWords





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**#RWNZ**

### Promo

#99c  
#AuthorRT  
#BookGiveaway  
#BookMarketing  
#FollowFriday  
#FreeReads  
#Novelines (to quote your own work)  
#FreeBook  
#FridayReads  
#TeaserTues

### Publishing

#AskAgent  
#AskAuthor  
#AskEditor  
#BookMarketing  
#Publishing  
#SelfPub  
#MSWL - manuscript wish list. This is where agents post what they are looking for

### Writing Process

#1K1H  
#AmWriting  
#AmEditing  
#CopyWriting  
#Creativity  
#Editing  
#IndieAuthor  
#RomanceWriter  
#StoryStarter  
#WIP  
#WordAThon  
#WordCount  
#WriteChat  
#WriteGoal  
#WriteMotivation  
#WriteTip  
#WritersLife  
#WritingBlitz



Shar Barratt, current RWNZ Membership Secretary, is a marketer by day, and professional romance fan by night. She podcasts weekly with The SPA Girls, sharing tips, tales and resources especially for writers exploring the new world of self publishing. Connect with Shar at [www.SPAGirlsPodcast.com](http://www.SPAGirlsPodcast.com)

# News from around the regions



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## Auckland

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Thirty members attended our October meeting and we had a splendid talk from Sharyn Barratt on 'Myths, Missteps and Must Dos' to do with marketing and branding for writers. Our November meeting was the last for the year, and Jackie Ashenden gave a tremendous workshop on 'Adapting your Core Story to Sell.' The Auckland Chapter Christmas function will be held at member, Cheryl Phipps' home in Waimauku on December 5th. Contact Pamela for details and to RSVP.

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## C2C (Central North Island Coast to Coast)

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The October meeting of the Coast to Coast zone met at Kushi's at Mourea on Saturday 10/10. Ten members were present and it was great to see some members who had been absent for most of the year. Their love of writing remained and they said the meeting rekindled their enthusiasm. Kushi took us through a poetry exercise and we all wrote a pantoum. What great results. Every single poem had a lively lilt and the repetition of lines made the poems sing. Kushi agreed to repeat this exercise at our November retreat.

We have two volunteers to take over as convenors next year—thank you Sandra and Sheryl.

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## Wellington/Kapiti

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Our slightly delayed October get-together took place at Ellie's lovely home. It was great to see Giovanna back from her travels, and to welcome Bernice who has returned from England. Everyone seemed to have interesting news, and our very focussed and hard-working Leeann shared how many books she's now selling daily (and caused some of us to just about faint.) Carole read the start of her next novel – set in Vietnam in the late 1960's - and got a round of horrified gasps from her last sentence. It's going to be another goodie!

Christmas lunch is definitely at Ellie's on Saturday December 5th at the earlier time of noon.

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## Nelson

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Our October meeting was entirely focused on sorting out the order of which the submitted short stories, excerpts from novels, and poems will appear in our planned Anthology. It was as you can imagine a very important meeting. Unfortunately Annika – the convenor – had to stay home because of a nasty cold, so plan B was set into place and she sent her ever supporting husband to set up the laptop with the material and Judy, bless her, took over from there. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who did a great job at the meeting. Heaps of thanks also to Sheree & her supporting man, who did a great job with the cover picture. Now it's all in the hands of the final editor. Next meeting we'll have a speaker – Sue Holmes, a nurse at the Neonatal ward at Nelson Hospital. We're looking forward to another exciting meeting. Everyone interested to join us is welcome on Saturday 14 November at 2pm.

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## REGIONAL CONVENORS

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

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

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