



# Heart to Heart

October 2015

ISSN 2324-1799

## Featuring...

- ♥ Meet our new Executive Committee
- ♥ #RWNZ2015 Conference 2015 pix!
- ♥ Chapter news from around the regions
- ♥ Thanks to our volunteers
- ♥ Woos, Hoos & News
- ♥ International Contests & Market News



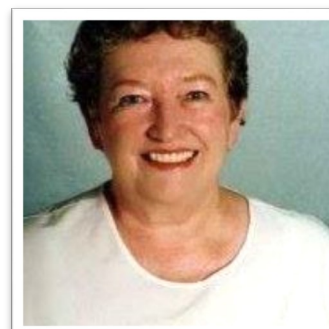
RWNZ member Shirley Wine wrote this lovely message on our RWNZ facebook page :



25 years ago on Sept 4th a group of women met for the first time ... and so RWNZ was born!

Jean Drew is an inspiration to us all, she had the vision that created the organisation that we have today. Through her, so many New Zealand

authors have found the path to publication.



Jean Drew, RWNZ Founder

*Thank you Jean,  
from all of us!*

ROMANCE WRITERS OF NZ INC

**THE KORU AWARD  
OF EXCELLENCE 2015**

*Congratulations to our Winners:*

Short Sweet Romance Winner: <b>Sue MacKay</b> Finalist: Kamy Chetty	Short Sexy Romance Winner: <b>Yvonne Lindsay</b> Finalists: Melanie Milburne Yvonne Lindsay Kristina O'Grady
Best First Book Winner: <b>Lizzi Tremayne</b> Finalists: Carole Brungar Amy Rose Bennett Kristina O'Grady	Long Romance Winner: <b>Zana Bell</b> Finalists: Maree Anderson Frances Housden Lizzi Tremayne



# Welcome!

A big welcome to the new executive and committee members and a big thank you to the previous members. Thank you for another awesome conference, your hard work and efforts, a job well done!

I would also like to send another big "Thank you", to Jaci Petherick for her exceptional skills, creativity and for being a fantastic team player in the H2H Editing team. I wish you all the best!

Happy Writing!

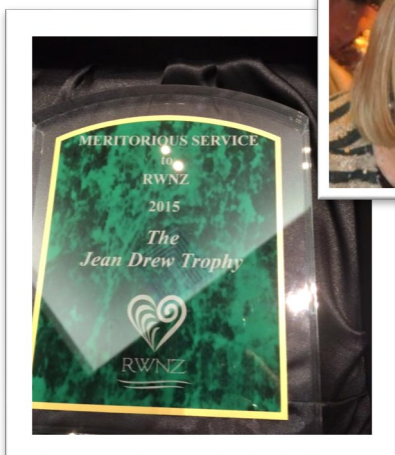
Sapi Heald, Editor

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## Congratulations to Pamela Gervai, 2015 RWNZ Volunteer Of The Year!

Pamela was presented with The Jean Drew Trophy at conference, after being awarded our 2015 RWNZ Volunteer of the Year.

Her nomination spoke of her incredible energy, commitment and support of the Auckland Chapter. Pamela runs each meeting, organises volunteers and is constantly working hard to put together a roster of speakers who educate, entertain and encourage chapter members. Her warm, welcoming, calm and professional manner is always evident, even when it must feel like sometimes she's herding cats! Pamela's commitment and leadership is admirable and much appreciated!



## Heartfelt Thanks & Apologies

Sincere thanks to **Sapi Heald** for all her work putting together each issue of Heart to Heart, and to **Julie-Ann Miskell** who emails it out each month to members.

Apologies for the delay in getting Heart to Heart distributed this month.

This issue was formatted by Shar Barratt—any errors are hers and not Sapi's or our awesomesauce proofreading team (Lorna, Norah, Anna) !

**Shar**

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

Paul Anderson, Ohope  
Jo Faraday, Auckland  
Lucy Parker, Cromwell  
Gracie Stanners, Waihi



## Liz Thompson, President

### (w/a Lizzi Tremayne)

I grew up riding wild in the Santa Cruz Mountain redwoods, became an equine veterinarian at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and practised in the California Pony Express and Gold Country before emigrating to New Zealand. When I'm not writing, I'm swinging a rapier or shooting a bow in medieval garb, riding, driving a carriage, being a mum to two young adult sons, playing on my farm, singing, or working as an equine veterinarian or science teacher. I'm multiply published and awarded in special interest magazines and veterinary periodicals. My first novel is self-published and won the RWNZ Pacific Hearts Award last year. Books Two and Three of the series are well underway.

I have enjoyed my time working with the Executive as Secretary this year. I am organised and good at keeping everyone involved in a project or committee informed at all times. I am especially interested in integrating our website with our financials and notifications, so subscriptions, payments and notifications of these payments become seamless and effective for the Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Conference Planning Committee and ALL Members. As President, I plan to help coordinate the efforts of all RWNZ Members: Executive, Committees and every Member, to ensure the organisation runs smoothly and efficiently, to give us more time to write and enjoy our lives!

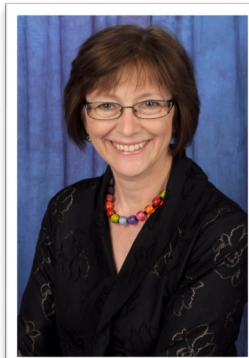


## Bernadette Doube, Vice President and Conference Convenor

I have been a member of the executive for the past year and have learned a lot from working with other exec colleagues over the past twelve months. I believe that I bring strong organisational skills, event management and many years of governance and committee work to the role. One thing we need to do is to ask the membership what matters to them about RWNZ and what their expectation are of conference. New technology should help us to communicate more effectively with the membership as RWNZ moves forward as an organisation.

My own romance writing has been on hold during the past year as I received two commissions to write histories of non-profit organisations – a change in direction but a wonderful opportunity. I am now focussed on writing romantic fiction once again and looking forward to a productive year.

Romance Writers New Zealand is an organisation with a committed and generous membership and it will be exciting to have the opportunity to work with a new executive committee to deliver fresh thinking and products to our membership in 2015-16.



## Ritu Pandey, Treasurer

I am a Human Resources Manager and an organisational psychologist, having worked in NZ for most of my career, except for 2.3 years in a gold mine in Vietnam and 2 years in Australia. Though not an accountant, I have also worked with finances, payroll and balance sheets for much of my career.

I joined NZ Society of Authors in around 2002 and Write 4 Kids as a children's author soon after. I joined RWNZ in 2014. My husband and I have two beautiful sons.

I am writing my third and fourth novels, and getting better, I think.



## Carole Brunger, Membership Secretary

I was born in the seaside town of Foxton in New Zealand and grew up in Huntly, a rural Waikato town that is steeped in a rich mining history. I did my big OE early in life, traveling extensively in the UK, Europe and Pacific before working my way around New Zealand.

I have a Bachelor of Communication majoring in Communication Management and Journalism and have worked as an editor of a newspaper, a journalist for a variety of newspapers and magazines throughout NZ and as a wedding and portrait photographer. I am currently working for a local council as a communications officer. I am also a fabric art tutor and teach classes both nationally and internationally. I have one full-length novel published, which has received a fantastic response, and has been judged a finalist in every award it's been entered in – very motivational for writing the next novel.

I first joined RWNZ back in the late 90's and then rejoined again several years ago. At no stage have I actively been made to feel like a valued member. I believe some major changes need to be implemented in order to drive and grow membership and to recognise the value and needs of individual members and show them that we are proud of their achievements, whether it be the completion of a chapter, a manuscript or a whole book!

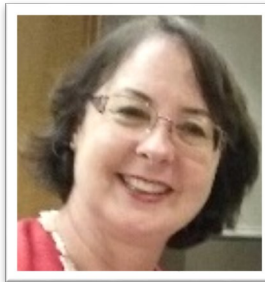
I believe I can help and would like to be part of those changes.



## **Moya Bawden, Secretary**

**(w/a Grace Lawler),**

I have been interested in writing for more years than I care to count, have a BSc in Chemistry and Geology and a Masters' degree in Business from MIT in Boston. I currently practice as a project manager and business analyst, as well as being involved in children's sport and trying to keep the books coming.



Romance Writers have provided me with kindness, inspiration and wonderful support when other writing organisations were uninterested in someone writing popular fiction. Although I have little spare time, I would like to do what I can to further the aims, spirit and achievement of the organisation which has been so welcoming.

## **Kristina O'Grady,**

**Co-Publicity Officer**

I believe that I'll be a good strong team member for the Executive Committee and for the Publicity Officers team. For the last year I have been promoting my own books with success and determination via social media, blog tours, book signings and engaging with potential customers day to day. With my previous experience in liaising with clients, landowners and industrial personal while working as an Environmental Consultant I gained valuable people skills and quickly came to know 'what sells'. I believe that I can bring a fresh perspective to the team as a whole.



I also believe in order for us as an organisation to continue to support fellow writers and authors, we as members need to give back to the organisation. I hope that you will consider my nomination.

BIO: Kristina O'Grady has always loved telling a good story. She took up writing at a young age and spent many hours – when she should have been doing her math homework – scribbling romance stories in a book she hid in her sock drawer.

She grew up on a cattle ranch in Western Canada and loves reminiscing by writing about cowboys and their horses.

In 2000 Kristina met her own knight in shining armour/cowboy who swept her off her feet and across the world to New Zealand, where she now lives on a sheep and beef farm with her amazingly supportive husband, three gorgeous young kids, seven working dogs and one very needy cat.

## **Trudi Caffell,**

**(w/a Trudi Jaye)**

**Co-Publicity Officer**

I'm the author of four self-published paranormal romance novels, the first published in May 2014, and the latest on 20th August 2015. The fifth is almost finished, and is due out in October (fingers crossed). I've always loved romance novels, and I've tried to write a variety of different styles - but I enjoy the world building that I can do in a paranormal romance, so it's where I feel most at home.



I've made my living as a writer for the last 12 years, working for a variety of niche magazine titles, most recently at Unitec, project managing their research magazine where I wrote about their research across a multitude of disciplines. I was part of the marketing and communications team, and as well as the magazine I also wrote the blog and did the social media for the research office.

Ever since my first book was published, I've focused on learning everything I can about self-publishing - through blogs, podcasts, online networking and courses. I'm part of the Writer's Circle, the Rocking Self Publishing/Simon Whistler advanced networking group and I know a large number of international self-publishing people (online at least...!!).

In terms of how I can help with the role of PR - I have a huge amount of experience with media, communications and marketing. I worked for Unitec for three years in the communications department, and I learned a whole heap about the best way to promote and expand an organisation's reach.

## **Sharyn Barratt,**

**Co-Publicity Officer**

I have been a member of RWNZ for 21 years, and have attended nearly all conferences since 1994.

I previously served on the Executive Committee for several years in the late 90's and early 2000 's and am ready to offer my services to the organisation again .

I have worked in marketing for over two decades. My co-owned marketing services company has worked with 8 of the top 10 retail chains in the USA, as well as leading entertainment and FMCG brands .

I currently work as a marketing and social media consultant for businesses, brands and authors. In addition, I have been running the RWNZ Facebook page for the past year. I am keen to further develop the organisation's platform online, promote and build membership and help drive awareness of New Zealand ' s successful romance writing community.



# November Contests

## Selling Synopsis

**(Romance Writers of Australia)**

**Deadline: 2 November 2015**

Eligibility: All RWA members.

Enter: Short manuscript (10K to 65K): maximum two (2) pages single spaced.

Long manuscript (65K and over): maximum three (3) pages single spaced.

Fee: \$22 (entries within Australia. GST incl.)

\$20 (entries outside Australia)

More info: <http://>

[www.romanceaustralia.com/p/112/Selling-Synopsis](http://www.romanceaustralia.com/p/112/Selling-Synopsis)

**Annual Hook Line and Sinker**

**Deadline: By midnight November 1, 2015.**

Eligibility: RWA Membership is NOT required to enter the contest.

Enter: First three (3) pages of your manuscript along with a cover page with your name, address, phone number, e-mail and title/genre of your unpublished, book-length novel

Fee: US\$10.

More Info: [http://www.hudsonvalleyrwa.com/contest/enter\\_the\\_contest](http://www.hudsonvalleyrwa.com/contest/enter_the_contest)



# A note from Lizzi

Hi all

We have been having some teething problems getting all up to speed with the accounts and website, so we are happy to get your memberships a little later this year.



We want the site, especially the membership portals, set up before we ask people to rejoin...then it will be easier to sort for our new membership secretary. We want it to run better than ever—complete with automatic responses and receipts, plus entry straight onto a spreadsheet.

We will be accepting payments via credit card or debit card only, to prevent the attribution difficulties presented by internet banking and the challenges presented by the mailing and receipt of cheques.

SO, hopefully within two to three weeks we will be up and running. We'll send out an email to current and former members who may be interested in rejoining, and let them know about the new initiatives we are putting into place, as well as some tidbits about our next Conference in 2016! We're excited, and will have more details by then for you!

On new members front, although there were few public buyers at the NZ Indie Book Festival this past weekend, we got to talk with MANY writers who have joined or plan to join soon! Great alternative to other writers groups out there! Photos on the Romance Writers of New Zealand FB page!

Thank you for your forbearance!  
Lizzi Thompson, RWNZ President



## Love Thrills 2015 Thank You

### from Past President & Conference Convenor, Kamy Chetty

Hello Everyone, people say it takes a village to raise a child - well it takes an organisation to hold a conference. I would like to thank the conference committee for the amazing work they did this year to make this happen.

To Mary Jones - our conference registrar - who kept everything in check.

To Ritu Pandey, who was our speaker Liaison - thank you for keeping it all together and me organised.

To Moya - for sorting out the pitches and getting together the what-we-need-done plan.

To Bernadette for organising raffles and sponsors, and organising speaker gifts – did an amazing job on keeping it together.

To Kris - Volunteer co-ordinator - love that I can just leave it all to you and trust it will be done.

To Jenny Wheeler - thank you for organising our guests' gift bags - you are a gem.

To Camilla Urdhall - the unflappable AV person, who kept everything on track.

To Sue Mackay and Sue Knight for organising the awards presentation.

To The Sandra Hyde Foundation – P.S. Those were not my words. The speech was from the foundation - beautiful toast to a gorgeous lady.

To Susan Elias at Gilded Lily for decorating our Saturday evening awards dinner.

To Frances Loo - who is so accommodating and gracious with her time and her store. If nobody has signed up to her newsletter - please do so - I get these newsletters and it is a great way to keep up to date with what's happening - what I find great is that Frances supports our Indie writers and that's why I think it's important to support Chapter Books. In this ever changing world, it's important to pay it forward. My two amazing MCs - I couldn't have chosen better, Darian Smith and Barb DeLeo. You both delivered in your own special way.

Then, there is the huge thank you to everyone who volunteered for the conference - we cannot do this each year without you, whether you volunteered to pack a conference bag, or you were those gorgeous ladies who stood at the registration desk being the first impression of RWNZ - know that you are appreciated. Volunteering is an excellent way to make friends, to get to know each other and to become part of the RWNZ family, so consider giving up some of your time to the organisation if you're new. I highly recommend it and can say the journey you go on is out of this world.

The feedback from the editors/agents/speakers has been really positive, and I do think we have upped the ante once again by providing excellent pitches, and a professional and welcoming conference. I am glad everyone had a good time, and I have no doubt next year is going to be spectacular, so start saving those pennies.

Thank you all once again for a fabulous weekend that I am sure I will be abuzz with for a long while to come.

**Kamy**

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### Are you following us on Facebook and Twitter?



Our publicity team keep our page and twitter feed updated daily with the latest news, tips, industry info, contests and writing inspiration.

Give us a Like/Follow ... on facebook, click *See First* (under Liked button) so you don't miss anything!

**facebook.com/romancewritersofnewzealand**

**twitter @nzromance**



## A Note From Jeremy Olds, Sunday Times

Confession: Before attending this year's Romance Writers of New Zealand conference, I had never read a romance novel.

One of the great things about my jobs is I get to experience worlds I am totally unfamiliar with, and when I saw an advertisement for the conference, I saw it as a chance to learn about something new.

So, with few expectations, I went along to what ended up being a crash course in all things romance publishing. The more people I spoke to, the more I became interested in the field – the hardworking writers and the voracious readers; the big money the industry generates; the gender politics involved. I hadn't expected it to be so complex. Needless to say, it was very difficult to distil my three days in to one article.

When I reflect on why I hadn't read a romance book until that weekend, Professor Pamela Regis' argument seems to apply. In her book *A Natural History of the Romance Novel*, she says men have a much more difficult time picking up a book targeted at women, than women do picking up one targeted at men. "It is difficult to understand a kind of literature you do not read," Regis writes. I think she's right. Lesson learned.

An enormous thank you to Kamy and everyone who spared a minute to talk to me. For the record, I've now read one romance – *Reunited... in Paris!* By Sue McKay. May there be many more.



Jeremy Olds, a reporter from Sunday Times attended Love Thrills 2015. His article can be read here:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/72365607/the-insatiable-demand-for-romance-novels>





# Thank You!

The incoming RWNZ Executive would like to thank and acknowledge last year's Executive and Committee members: so many wonderful people with the best interests of RWNZ at heart!

Sapi Heald, Lorna Croft and Jaci Petherick for keeping us all informed with the Heart to Heart;  
Sue MacKay for her wonderful Contest Coordination;  
LaVerne Clark, Sue MacKay and Sue Knight for their excellent contest management;  
Rachel Stedman for her role as Publicity Officer;  
Tania Sparks for taking care of our finances as Treasurer;  
Pat Snellgove, for assisting with end of year accounts preparation;  
Leeann Morgan and Giovanna Lee for their much-needed advice throughout the year;  
Karen Johnson-Mead for acting as Membership Secretary; Liz Thompson as Secretary; LaVerne Clark and Bernadette Doube for acting as Vice President; and Kamy Chetty, for her role as President.

*Lizzi Thompson and the Executive team*



*And a huge thank you to everyone who attended our conference.  
We hope to see you again next year!*



# Congratulations!



## Many congratulations to our winners and finalists in this year's RWNZ Competitions!

We wish to say a big, *huge* thank you to Sue MacKay for being our wonderful Contest Coordinator and to her team of great Contest Managers, Toni Stephens (Koru), Sue McKnight (Pacific Hearts & Great Beginnings) and LaVerne Clark (Chapter Short Story)! We also are indebted to our fantastic (who shall remain anonymous) judges, all twenty-one of them!

### Koru Award 2015

#### Finalists Long Romance:

Maree Anderson – Opals Wish  
Zana Bell – Fool's Gold  
Frances Housden – Chieftain by Command  
Lizzi Tremayne – A Long Trail Rolling

**Winner: Zana Bell**

#### Finalists Short and Sexy:

Yvonne Lindsay – The Child They Didn't Expect  
Yvonne Lindsay – Wanting What She Can't Have  
Melanie Milburne – Flirting with the Socialite  
Kristina O'Grady – Debutantes Don't Date

**Winner: Yvonne Lindsay**

#### Finalists Short and Sweet:

Kamy Chetty – Arranged by the Stars  
Sue MacKay – A Family this Christmas

**Winner: Sue MacKay**

#### Finalists Best First Book:

Amy Rose Bennett – Lady Beauchamps Proposal  
Carole Brungar – A Tide too High  
Kristina O'Grady – Debutantes Don't Date  
Lizzi Tremayne – A Long Trail Rolling

**Winner: Lizzi Tremayne**

### Pacific Hearts Award 2015

#### Finalists:

Rebekah Orr {Book One}  
Rebekah Orr {Book Two}  
Kellie Watkinson

**Winner: Kellie Watkinson**

**Readers' Choice: Rebekah Orr**

### The Chapter Short Story Contest

**1st - Yvonne Walus**

2nd - Moya Bawden

3rd - Virginia Suckling

### The Great Beginnings Contest

**Agent Placings - Patricia Nelson,  
Marsal Lyon Literary Agency**

**Editor Placings—Carly Byrne, Editor Harlequin UK and the  
HQN Single Title Team**

**1st Jane Madison-Jones**

2nd Judy Knighton

3rd Nicole Bishop

4th Sheryl Buchanan

**1st Judy Knighton**

2nd Nicole Bishop

3rd Sheryl Buchanan

4th Jane Madison-Jones

### **Mezzanotte Publishing, UK**

e-book and POD.

#### **SEEKING**

Contemporary sexy romance, with a grand conflict to set sparks flying and an HEA.

#### **LENGTH**

50,000 to 70,000 words.

#### **PAYMENT**

Discussed under contract.

#### **DETAILS**

Website: <http://mezzanotte-publishing.co.uk>; email subs to: [romance@mezzanotte-publishing.co.uk](mailto:romance@mezzanotte-publishing.co.uk)

### **Kennebec Publishing USA**

Imprint Steam Romance

#### **SEEKING**

Steampunk, urban fantasy, paranormal and SF with a strong female MC and romance as a major part of the plot. Happy to take self-published books.

#### **LENGTH**

Novella, 15,000 to 40,000 words and novels 50,000 to 100,000 words.

#### **PAYMENT**

Discussed under contract.

#### **DETAILS**

Website: <http://kennebecpublishing.com/> and email subs to: [steameditor@gmail.com](mailto:steameditor@gmail.com)

### **Good Mourning Publishing USA**

e-books and print

#### **SEEKING**

romance, but claiming to be 'the end of traditional romance novels' the editorial team claim to publish 'only the best and most unique love stories that cover the spectrum of sexualities and cultures indiscriminately'. Check out the website.

#### **LENGTH**

Collections of short stories and the completed full-length manuscripts.

#### **PAYMENT**

Payment is US\$30.00 for a short story. 'For full length novels authors will receive \$100 plus 10% of the list price. Authors will retain full copyright to their work.'

#### **DETAILS**

website: <http://goodmourningmedia.com>;

queries to: [contact@goodmourningpublishing.com](mailto:contact@goodmourningpublishing.com);

subs to: [submissions@goodmourningpublishing.com](mailto:submissions@goodmourningpublishing.com);

### **Roane Publishing USA**

e-books

#### **SEEKING**

erotica and fantasy and romance. Currently the editorial team is seeking submissions of all sub-genres of romance. They welcome 'everything from the very sweet to the incredibly erotic,' and characters may be 'couples (or multiples) from all walks of life and sexual orientation, including same-sex romances'.

#### **LENGTH**

Romances, from 15,000 words upwards.

Erotic romance 70,000 words plus.

### **'Brilliant Flash Fiction'**

Irish online flash fiction zine

#### **SEEKING**

Flash fiction 'your most interesting, creative, soulful writing'.

#### **LENGTH**

up to 1,000 words.

#### **PAYMENT**

Prizes, a share of anthology rights if the story is also accepted for the anthology and 'all rights remain with the author after publication'.

#### **DETAILS**

website: <https://brilliantflashfictionmag.wordpress.com>;

guidelines: <https://brilliantflashfictionmag.wordpress.com/submissions>;

email subs to: [brilliantflashfiction@gmail.com](mailto:brilliantflashfiction@gmail.com)

### **Spelk UK**

a new website/zine.

#### **SEEKING**

Flash fiction any genre.

#### **LENGTH**

Up to 500 words.

#### **PAYMENT**

Probably not.

#### **DETAILS**

Editor, Gary Duncan, website: <http://spelkfiction.com>;

email subs to: [spelkfiction@gmx.com](mailto:spelkfiction@gmx.com)

### **'CommuterLit.com'**

Canadian ezine designed for readers to enjoy as they commute to work or wherever.

#### **SEEKING**

Stories and poems to be read during a 20 to 30 minute public-transit commute to work.

#### **LENGTH**

500 - 4,000 words.

#### **DETAILS**

website: <http://commuterlit.com>; submit online using their system; <http://commuterlit.com/for-writers/submission-guidelines/>

### **Dark Passages Publishing USA**

e-book and print

#### **SEEKING**

novellas, which 'exceed expectations and surprise the reader in both context and form'. The editors like 'mystery, noir, hardboiled, psychological, thriller, pulp, or literary crime' but want short works that 'give us something nebulous, something gritty, something radical'. They seek 'compelling stories with intriguing characters and quality writing'. The story should unsettle the reader and thrill them with the use of language and unexpected twists.

#### **LENGTH**

Novellas between 15,000 and 35,000 words.

#### **PAYMENT**

Discussed under contract but is in the form of royalties.

#### **DETAILS**

website: <http://darkpassagespublishing.com>;

Email subs to: [darkpassagespublishing@gmail.com](mailto:darkpassagespublishing@gmail.com)



# Woos, Hoos & News!

## Celebrating our members' achievements.

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

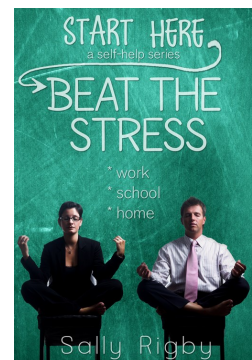
Nicola Davidson's self-published book,  
TO LOVE A HELLION, was released on August  
17.



Kris Pearson's new indie pubbed DESIRED BY  
THE SHEIKH launched September 15. .



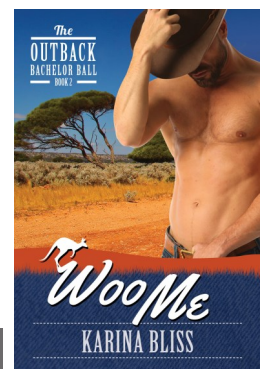
Sally Rigby's BEAT THE STRESS, part of the Start  
Here self-help series released in September.  
Available through Amazon.



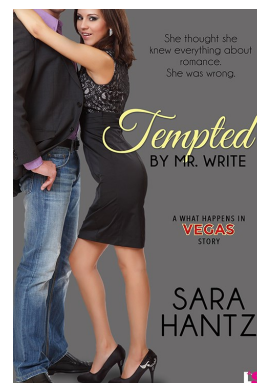
Karen Mead w/a Catherine Mede released  
her science fiction romance, SHARDS OF ICE,  
in August.



Karina Bliss is delighted to announce she's  
taking part in a novella trilogy with her  
novella, WOO ME. The Outback Bachelor Ball  
is a self-published series and all three novellas  
– Win Me by Joan Kilby, Woo Me by Karina  
Bliss and Wait For Me by Sarah Mayberry will  
release on October 20.



Sally Rigby w/a Sara Hantz will release  
TEMPTED BY MR WRITE through Entangled  
Publishing, Lovestruck



# HOOT! HOOT! Romance Writers of Australia (RWA) ANNOUNCES NOVEMBER 2015 OWL



## The Wonderful World of Blogging with Helen Katsinis & Daniel de Lorne

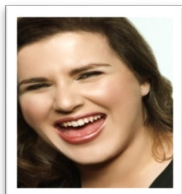
Been told you should blog but you're not sure how to set one up?

Over the course of four weeks, Helen and Daniel will help you understand the benefits of blogging and know how to set up your own blog on either Blogger or Wordpress.

Homework – while minimal & not mandatory - will include setting up test blogs on Blogger and Wordpress. However, if you have a preference or dislike for one over the other, you are not required to set up both.

**Course Dates:** 02/11/2015 - 30/11/2015. **Cost:** RWA-Member - \$25.00 Non RWA-Member - \$35.00

You can find out more on the RWA website [hyperlink for word " website" for online edition = <http://www.romanceaustralia.com/owl/15>]



Helen Katsinis (of HelzKat Designs) designs book covers and banners for writers. She has set up a number of blogs (using Blogger) and websites (using Blogger and Weebly) for her business and her alter ego, Eleni Konstantine (Fantasy & Paranormal fiction writer), and has given talks on the subject of blogging and navigating in the online world. Visit [helzkatdesigns.com](http://helzkatdesigns.com).



Daniel de Lorne loves Wordpress and has built multiple websites and blogs using the platform for authors and business. He is also an author, editor, proofreader and designer. Check out his business, Dittography, at [www.dittography.com.au](http://www.dittography.com.au).

Both Helen and Daniel believe blogging is a great way to raise your profile, interact with readers, and increase traffic to your website. Done right, it can be an excellent way to earn money too.

## ANNUAL COAST TO COAST RETREAT!

### PARADISE VALLEY LODGE

**6/7/8 NOVEMBER IN ROTORUA**

#### **C2C Members:**

This year, we are calling on *members' talents* for the Saturday afternoon workshops! Scrivener, Swordplay or Computer help, etc.

Due to its success last year, **critiques** will be read on Sunday morning, using a printed copy of the first chapter of your latest WIP(s). If you wish to participate, (no printed author ID) chapters are

deposited on the Friday evening for reading by participants.

Contact Deryn Pittar [deryn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:deryn@xtra.co.nz) to book your space.

**AGM Notice:** AGM to be held on Saturday 7 November, at 11 a.m. for those not going to retreat but wishing to attend AGM. (You can then stay for lunch!)





# News from around the regions

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## Auckland

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Thirty-two attended our September meeting and Helen Sword (Professor and Director of the Centre for Learning and Research in Higher Education at the University of Auckland) inspired us on 'Writing Productively'. See ([www.helensword.com](http://www.helensword.com)) for links to her books, her digital poetry and the Writer's Diet, a free diagnostic tool for writers.

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month, at the Three Kings Tennis Pavilion, 12.30 until 3.00 p.m. Please bring a shared plate for lunch.

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## C2C (Central North Island Coast to Coast)

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Seven writers joined me (Maggie) at my home in Waihi on 12 September. After a shared lunch and brief business meeting, Lizzie gave a welcome summary of Conference for those of us who were unable to attend. Our 'workshop' was 'How to Write a Book Review.' The text will be posted soon in the RWNZ newsletter! The idea of a regular book review by our members in the local paper was discussed. Watch this space! My workshop was rudely interrupted by a sudden crash and violent shake. My guests were not impressed, the mining company blast felt too close for comfort--a new experience for some?

I don't know if Khushi has anything in store as exciting as an earth shake, but I know her love of poetry. Khushi has innovative rhymes to share, so join us at

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## Wellington/Kapiti

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Our September get-together took place at Kate's lovely home, with the harbour spread out wall-to-wall below us. We welcomed new member Gudrun from the conference, and past member Kendra, who was visiting from Hawkes Bay. Tracey and Kris were both invited into the current iBooks promotion, and this is working well for us. We all enjoyed making suggestions to Kate about how her hero and heroine could follow up their disastrous first meeting. We're considering getting our courage up enough to have one of our meetings on Access Radio through Peter – could be fun! Producing audio books there is also a possibility. Leeann has taken over the reminder emails, so watch your inbox for details of future meetings.

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## Nelson

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Our September meeting was hectic and exciting to say the least. Firstly, we welcomed a new prospective member, Vicky, who had attended the great workshop held by our own LaVerne Clark at the Elma Turner Library in Nelson last Friday. Secondly, we discussed and made further decisions about the title and cover of the anthology we're working on. The aim is to have all stories and other material ready to be sorted into the right order for the book at our October meeting.

Thirdly, we welcomed our speaker Forensic Officer Chris Gladstone, whom we bombarded with questions during cuppa and cake time at the end. Chris was very generous with his time and showed us the human being behind his professional status. He told us a lot of serious stuff, but we also had a lot of good laughs. Our next meeting will be Saturday 10 October, 2pm as usual.

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## REGIONAL CONVENORS

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### Auckland:

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**Lizzi Tremayne**

**Deryn Pittar**

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

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