

HEART TO HEART

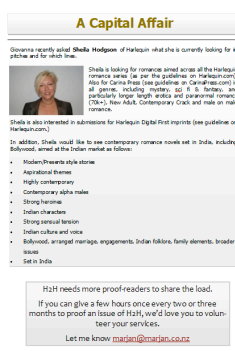
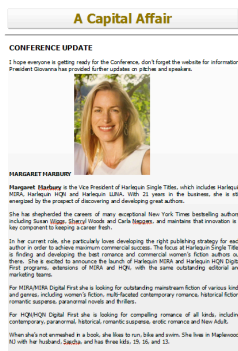
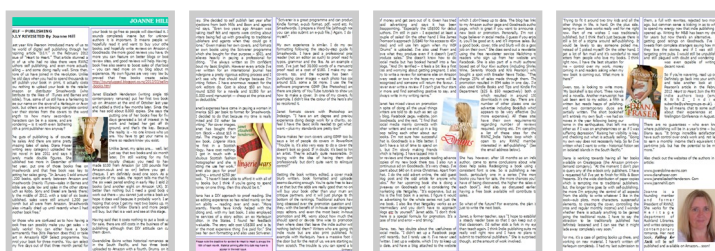


Featuring



SELF – PUBLISHING D.I.Y REVISITED By Joanne Hill pages 2-3 & 6-7

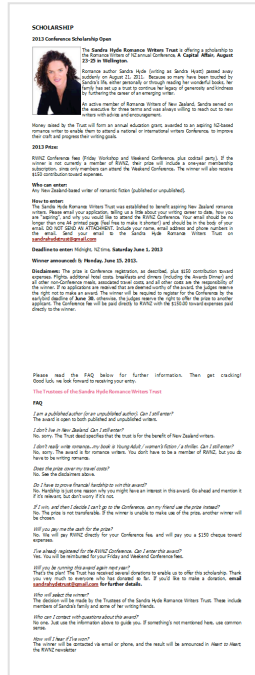
Joanne is a founding member and former President of RWNZ



CONFERENCE UPDATE:
Pitches & Speakers
~~~~~  
**Take note of the  
Conference Schedule  
in last month's Newsletter**

## Inside This Issue

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Self-Publishing D.I.Y. Revisited   | pg 2  |
| From The President's Pen           | pg 4  |
| Welcome to New Members             | pg 5  |
| A Capital Affair Conference Update | pg 8  |
| - Margaret Marbury                 | pg 9  |
| - Sheila Hodgson—Harlequin         | pg 10 |
| International Contests             | pg 11 |
| Sandra Hyde RW Trust Scholarship   | pg 12 |
| Woos, Hoos, & News                 | pg 14 |
| Around The Regions                 | pg 15 |
| Potential Markets                  | pg 17 |
| Editor's Note                      | pg 18 |



## SELF – PUBLISHING D.I.Y REVISITED By Joanne Hill

Last year Kris Pearson introduced many of us to the world of digital self publishing through her inspiring article "D.I.Y." in the February 2012 issue of "Heart to Heart." That article stunned a lot of us who had no idea there were RWNZ authors self publishing, and even more actually selling – and some doing really well. Since then, more of us have joined in the revolution. Unlike the old days when you had to spend thousands to self publish your book in print, it actually costs you nothing to upload your book to the retailer Amazon or distributor Smashwords (who distribute to the likes of iTunes and Barnes and Noble). True, some of us still have a hankering to see our name on the cover of a Harlequin or Avon book, but others are embracing complete control over their stories from the covers to the word length to how many secondary characters can be in a scene, and are wondering – is it worth even bothering with a print publisher now anyway?

The guts of publishing is, of course, the sales. And there are some pretty amazing tales of sales. Diana Fraser (writing sexy category) uploaded her first novel in late 2011 and says it barely made double figures. She published two more in December of that year, put one of those books free on Smashwords and that free book was key to getting her sales going. "In January I sold around 1,200 books, split evenly between Amazon and Smashwords (mainly iTunes—sales in Barnes and Noble are quite low and sales in the other stores such as Kobo, Sony and Diesel are barely there) By the middle of 2012, with a total of six books published, sales were still around 1,200 per month but all were from Amazon. Smashwords sales virtually dried up until recently when I had another book free."

For those who are confused as to how having a book free can possibly make you get sales – it really works! You can either have a book permanently free (Kris Pearson does this) or take part in Amazon's KDP Select programme. You enrol your book for three months. You can select any five days out of that three month period for

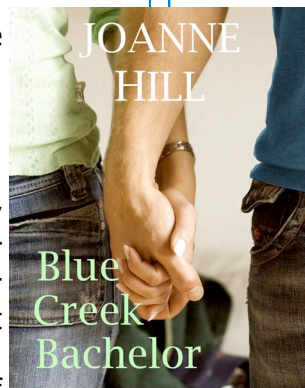
your book to go free so people will download it. It sounds completely insane but for unknown authors it is important. It means people will hopefully read it and want to buy your other books, and hopefully write reviews on Amazon or Goodreads; the more good reviews you have, the more you can feature on better blogs or book review sites, and good reviews will help. Having a book free also seems to boost sales of *that* book – you can read more on my blog about my experience. My own figures are very very low but proved that free books create sales. <http://jounplugged.blogspot.co.nz/2013/03/selling-books.html>

Janet Elizabeth Henderson (writing single title contemporary romance) put her first two books up on Amazon at the end of October last year, and added a third a few months later. Since then she has sold about 8,000 copies. She says that putting one of her books free for five days generated a lot of interest in her work and helped her get off the ground, and that's the key. Because the reality is - no one knows who you are. You have to get your name out there so readers know you exist.

Unlike Janet, my sales are... well, let's just say that two books and six months later, I'm still waiting for my first royalty cheque; you need to have made \$100 from Amazon (or 100 pounds from Amazon.co.uk and so on) before you get a cheque. I am definitely owed one soon. As an example of my sales, the report tells me that for the six week period ending in early May I sold 28 books (and another eight on Amazon UK). It's better than nothing but I need a good body of work out there – you cannot just write a book and hope it does well because it probably won't. I am hoping that once I get my next two books up, my experience will follow Diana's and more people will buy, but that is a wait and see at this stage.

Having said that it costs nothing to put a book up for sale, there are still costs in the business of self publishing although that DIY attitude can cut them down.

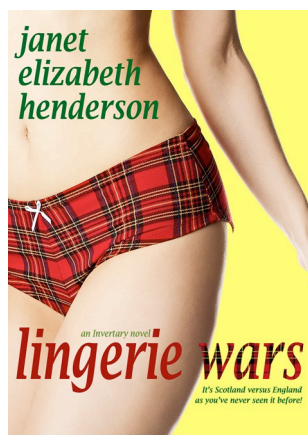
Gwendoline Ewins writes historical romances set in the South Pacific, and has three books uploaded to Amazon with a fourth, *Drums*, on its



way. She decided to self publish last year after rejections from both Mills and Boon and agents and says, "Even two years ago Amazon was making itself felt and reports were circling about writers being fed up with grovelling to traditional publishers and agents when they could go it alone." Gwen makes her own covers, and formats her own books using the Scrivener programme (which she bought for that purpose – \$50), and believes heavily in paying a professional for editing. "I've always written so I'm confident about my basic English. However every article I've ever written for an international journal has undergone a pretty rigorous editing process and I can't see why that should change because I'm writing fiction. I have enormous respect for the work editors do. Cost is about \$50 an hour, around \$250 for a novella and \$1350 for an 85,000 word manuscript — cheap at the price and tax deductible."

Janet's expenses have come in paying a woman in America \$25 per book to format for Smashwords. "I decided to do that because my time is really limited and I'd rather be writing." For cover images, Janet has bought them from iStock – about \$15 in total. The images for her new book, *Lingerie Wars*, the first in a Scottish trilogy, have cost nothing. "I got in touch with a fabulous Scottish fashion photographer and she is letting me use her work." Janet also pays for proof reading – around \$250 per book. "I haven't been able to afford it with all of my books, but I think if you're going to spend money on one thing, then this should be it."

Diana has a DIY approach to proof reading. She has editing experience so has relied mainly on her own ability – reading over and over. "More recently, friends have kindly helped with the editing and, with my last book, I also employed the services of a story editor, an ex Harlequin editor, in the States. I found her feedback invaluable. The story edit cost US\$300 and is by far the most expensive thing I've paid for." She



does her own formatting and also uses Scrivener. "Scrivener is a great programme and can produce Kindle format, e-pub format, pdf, word etc. For Smashwords, I prepare a Word file (although now you can also submit an e-pub file.) Again, I do it myself."

My own experience is similar. I do my own formatting following the step-by-step guide for Smashwords. I have paid a professional proof reader (not an editor as such) to proof read for typos, grammar and the like. As an example of cost, I've just had 30,000 words of a manuscript proof read at a cost of \$180. I make my own covers, too, and the expense has been in purchasing cover images – each photo has cost around \$15, some a bit more. I use the free software programme GIMP (like Photoshop) and there are plenty of You Tube tutorials to show you how to make a cover. In one of my covers, for example, I didn't like the colour of the hero's shirt so recolored it.

Janet formats covers with Photoshop and Indesign. "I have an art degree and previous experience doing design work for a charity, so I feel I have the basic skills needed to get what I want – plus my standards are pretty low!"

Diana makes her own covers using GIMP too but says a lot of people do covers in PowerPoint. "Trouble is, it's also very easy to do a cover that doesn't look so good. If in doubt, it's best to hire an artist. They're actually quite reasonable. I'm toying with the idea of having them done professionally but don't quite want to relinquish control!"

Getting the book written, edited, a cover made, blurb written, book formatted and uploaded seems daunting enough. You're quite free to leave it at that but the odds are really good that no one will buy your book other than your mum and critique partners, and it will just plunge to the bottom of the rankings. Traditional authors have long obsessed over the promotion question and if they, with the benefit of in-house cover designers, copy editors, and even the most basic in-house promotion and PR, worry about how much they should spend or devote time wise to promotion, then where does that leave the indie author with nothing behind them? Writers who are going the indie route but are also print published, for example with Harlequin, have a massive foot in the door but for the rest of us, we are starting out

Please note the deadline for content for Heart to Heart is always the 15th of each month. Material arriving after this date may have to appear in the next issue.

Continued p.6



Writing a novel is  
not merely going  
on a shopping  
expedition across  
the border to an  
unreal land:  
it is hours and  
years spent in the  
factories, the  
streets, the  
cathedrals of the  
imagination.

~ Janet Frame

*The Envoy from Mirror City*

Retrieved from [http://  
www.janetframe.org.nz/default.htm](http://www.janetframe.org.nz/default.htm)

## A Capital Affair

Romance Writers of  
New Zealand

20th Anniversary  
Conference

**23rd-25th August**  
**Intercontinental Hotel**  
**2 Grey Street**  
**WELLINGTON**

MORE INFORMATION

PP 7-10

## From The President's Pen

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

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

[giovannaalee@yahoo.com](mailto:giovannaalee@yahoo.com)



I always look forward to and enjoy reading our monthly newsletter. Marjan and Jaci did a great job of putting the emergency copy together and I can't wait for their next issue.

Only a few weeks left to grab the last few rooms at the special Conference rate at the Ibis hotel. If you need a hotel room for the fantastic three day get-together in Wellington, I urge you to book now. These room rates might not be available after May.

We have a fantastic line-up of speakers and sessions for the weekend Conference. The cost of the weekend will go up slightly after June. By registering now, you will not only have a chance of winning a free Conference but you will save cash to use for the excellent raffles.

I have received glowing reports from people who have done Shirley Jump's workshops. The committee have decided not to increase the cost of the Friday's workshop, once the early bird date closes.

This three day weekend offers lots of discussions with like-minded people, but also come prepared to work hard and to learn heaps. You will be exhausted and very keen to dive into your writing by the time you return home.

Some of the workshops are on a first come booking system purely because of the room sizes, especially when there are four workshops running simultaneously. We will do our best to accommodate everyone.

Conference registrations are flowing in. Remember that only those members who book by the early bird deadline will go into the draw to receive a free 2014 weekend Conference.

For me, catching up with old friends and making new ones is a Conference highlight.

We look after the first timers at Conference too. In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to email me.

The Great Beginnings Contest sponsored by Harlequin Mills & Boon will close soon. Sharpen the first 5000 words of your Category manuscript and write a 1000 word synopsis.

It is a great opportunity to have your work read by editors Megan Haslam and Laura McCallen and Spencerhill Associates Agent Nalini Akolekar. Sharon Kelly is the contest manager and can be contacted at [sharonmareekelly@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonmareekelly@hotmail.com)

### **2013 Conference Scholarship Open**

The **Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust** is offering a scholarship to the Romance Writers of NZ annual Conference, **A Capital Affair, August 23-25 in Wellington.**

#### **How to enter:**

The Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust was established to benefit aspiring New Zealand romance writers. Please email your application, telling us a little about your writing career to date, how you are "aspiring", and why you would like to attend the RWNZ Conference. Your email should be no longer than one A4 printed page (feel free to make it shorter!) and should be in the body of your email. **DO NOT SEND AN ATTACHMENT.** Include your name, email address and phone numbers in the email.

Send your email to the Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust on **[sandrahydetrust@gmail.com](mailto:sandrahydetrust@gmail.com)**

#### **Deadline to enter:**

Midnight, NZ time, **Saturday June 1, 2013.**  
**Winner announced: By Monday, June 15, 2013.** [See pages 12 and 13 for full info]

Finally, it involves a lot of voluntary work to keep our organisation going. Our gratitude and thanks to all those who help in any way to make our association the kind of place it is.

See you next month

Giovanna Lee, President, RWNZ

[giovannaalee@yahoo.com](mailto:giovannaalee@yahoo.com)

## *Welcome to New Members*

Jennifer Ensor, Australia

Ruth Clough, Auckland

Trish Peers-Adams, Nelson

Christine Curtis, Auckland

Hena Lees, Auckland

Soraya Nicholas, Christchurch

Tessa Radley, Auckland

Lynette Gautier, Auckland

Anna Capil, Christchurch

Fiona O'Kane of Wellington

Katherine Hoby of Tauranga



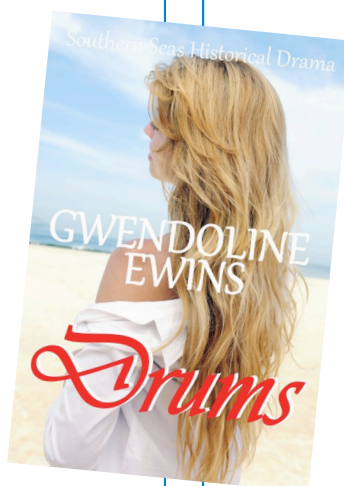
"I thought hard about the story,  
wrote and rewrote it,  
working my way into it  
—and acted bits of it out  
in my head."

- Margaret Mahy

from scratch. The trouble is, you can spend a lot of money and get zero out of it. Gwen has tried paid advertising and says it has been disappointing. "Especially the US\$500 for debut authors. I'm still in pain - I expected at least a couple of sales! On the other hand I like James Thomson's approach (US\$40 for his access to 45+ sites) and will use him again when my WIP "Drums" is uploaded. I've also used Fiverr and love what they produce even if it doesn't (yet?) produce sales." She doesn't know how to do social media but has booked herself into a few blogs. "And I'm terrified - it feels a bit like a first kiss and worrying about getting pregnant. I also try to write a review for someone else on Amazon every week or two in the hope my name will be recognised and someone will return the favour. I never ever write a review if I can't give four stars or more and find something positive to say, and always write in my writing name."

Janet has mixed views on promotion in spite of doing all the usual things writers are told to do such as set up a blog, Facebook page, website, join Goodreads, and the rest. "I find that social media mainly connects with other writers and we end up in a big loop telling each other about our books. I'm not sure how successful that is. Goodreads is a little better. I don't have a lot of time to spend on it, but I'm slowly making friends which is helping. I have tapped into it for reviews and there are people reading advance copies of my new book there too. I also run a continuous ad on Goodreads. It's very cheap, I've spent about \$40 on it since Christmas. Apart from that, I do the odd advert online, the odd guest blog post and the odd article for anyone who asks." For her upcoming book she is doing a giveaway on Goodreads and is considering the marketing site Netgalley. "It's expensive, but as this is the first book in a series, I figure it would be advertising for the whole series not just the one book. I also like that Netgalley works as an intermediary and you don't have to approach blogs etc by yourself." Janet adds, "I don't think there is a special formula for promotion. It's a case of trial and error - and timing."

Diana, too, has doubts about the usefulness of social media. "I didn't set up a Facebook page until recently, but I rarely use it. I've never used



Twitter. I set up a website, which I try to keep up to date, and have a blog attached to the website which I *don't* keep up to date. The blog has links to my Amazon author page and Goodreads author page, which is great if you want to announce a new book or promotion. Personally, I'm not a huge believer in social media. I guess if you enjoy it, you'll be good at it, and it'll improve sales. But a good book, cover, title and blurb will do a good job on their own." She does send out a newsletter using the free newsletter service Mailchimp to readers who sign up from her website and Facebook. She is also part of a multi authored boxed set of four Kiwi authors (including Shirley Wine, Serenity Woods and Kris Pearson) who bought a spot with Ereader News Today. "They charge 25% of sales made through them. The promotion resulted in 894 sales in one day. I've also used Kindle Books and Tips and Kindle Fire Department (\$25 & \$50 respectively) both of which resulted in around 150 downloads in one day. There are a number of other places one can advertise including BookBub which appears to be very effective (but more expensive). All these sites have their own requirements regarding number of reviews required, pricing etc. I'm compiling a list of these sites for the RWNZ Indie Yahoo loop which is open to any RWNZ member interested in self-publishing." (See the email address below).

She has, however, after 18 months as an indie author, come to some conclusions about what does help sales. Redesigning a book using a consistent font is one. So is publishing a new book, particularly one in a series ("the more books you have for sale, the more chances you'll have of being discovered, the higher the sales of each book"). And also, as discussed earlier, having a free book available will contribute to sales.

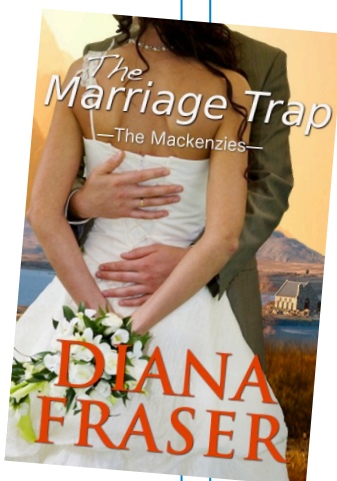
So what of the future? For everyone, the plan is just to write the next book. Janet, a former teacher, says "I hope to establish a steady reader base so that I can keep out of that classroom. I'd rather stick a fork in my eye than teach again. I think Indie publishing suits me really well right now and I have no plans to submit to traditional publishers." She is

surprised, though, at the amount of work involved.

"Trying to fit it around two tiny kids and all the other things in life, is hard. On the plus side, being my own boss works really well for me right now. Part of me wishes I was traditionally published, but I think that's just because there is still a bit of a stigma around self-publishing. It would be lovely to say someone picked me, instead of I picked myself! On the other hand, I get a lot of fan mail and it's wonderful to read letters from people who love my books. I think right now, I have the best situation for me – control over my work, money coming in and readers asking when my new book is coming out. What more is there?"

Gwen, too, is looking to write more. "My bookshelf is too short. Three novels and a novella. Another manuscript has just been sent to my editor, a fifth is written but needs heaps of polishing, and two contemporary duos are partially written. The short bookshelf isn't entirely my own fault - we had six moves in the year following losing our home in the earthquakes, that left me writing either as if I was on amphetamines or as if I was suffering depression." Raising her visibility is key, and checking out what is actually selling. "Going my own way does not necessarily help. So far I've written what I want to write - historical fiction set on isolated islands in the South Pacific."

Diana is working towards having all her books available on Createspace (the Amazon print-on-demand company). "At the moment I don't plan to query any of the e-book only publishers. I have a requested full I've yet to finish for Mills & Boon Presents. It's the wide distribution of paper copies which is tempting me to traditional publishers. But, the longer time goes by with self-publishing, the more I'm enjoying the control of all aspects (from the ability to write whatever I like in the book—sub plots, more characters, suspenseful elements, to creating the cover, controlling the price and regular monthly income) and I wonder whether there is actually anything to be gained going the traditional route. I have to say the attraction to be traditionally published has definitely lessened and I can see that it might fade away completely very soon."



For me, it's a case of getting books up there, and working on new material. I haven't written off Harlequin completely. I had my last submission to them, a full with rewrites, rejected two months ago, but common sense is kicking in as to where to spend my energy now that indie publishing has opened up. Writing for M&B has been my dream for years but now there's an alternative. I'm getting good ratings on Goodreads, I've had tweets from complete strangers saying how much they love the stories, and if I was still just targeting print pubs, I would still be unpublished, and still plagued with doubt and wondering if I was even capable of writing a decent novel.

So if you're wavering, read up on it. Definitely go back into your archives and take another look at Kris Pearson's article in the February 2012 *Heart to Heart*.

Join the RWNZ indie authors loop (email: [RWNZ\\_Indie-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:RWNZ_Indie-subscribe@yahoo.co.uk)), and by all means, chat to some authors about their experiences at the Wellington Conference in August.

There are no guarantees – who even knows where publishing will be in a year's time – but as Diana says, "It brings incredible satisfaction to have such control over one's work and, not least, to earn a monthly income that's equivalent to a part-time job, but has the potential to be much more."

Also check out the websites of the authors in this article: [www.gwendoline-ewins.com](http://www.gwendoline-ewins.com)  
[www.dianafraser.com](http://www.dianafraser.com)  
[www.janetelizabethhenderson.com](http://www.janetelizabethhenderson.com)  
[www.joannehill.com](http://www.joannehill.com)

Joanne is a founding member and former President of RWNZ. She works for the Heritage department of Auckland Libraries, and writes category contemporary romance. Her next book, *Falling for Jack*, will be self published and available on Amazon... soon!





ROMANCE WRITERS OF NEW ZEALAND  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

# A Capital Affair

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August  
2013

Intercontinental Hotel,  
Wellington  
2 Grey Street Wellington,  
6011, New Zealand



## **Registration:**

It's great to see Conference registrations coming in thick and fast!

Just a reminder that if you're paying by credit card you'll need to add the 4% surcharge yourself.

The cost of each item including the surcharge can be found here:  
<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/Conference-2013/Conference-fees/>

but you'll still need to add the 4% to the total you're sent in the confirmation email.

Any questions please don't hesitate to email  
Conference Registrar Barbara DeLeo [barb@barbaradeleo.com](mailto:barb@barbaradeleo.com)



# A Capital Affair

## CONFERENCE UPDATE

I hope everyone is getting ready for the Conference, don't forget the website for information. President Giovanna has provided further updates on pitches and speakers.



### MARGARET MARBURY

**Margaret Marbury** is the Vice President of Harlequin Single Titles, which includes Harlequin MIRA, Harlequin HQN and Harlequin LUNA. With 21 years in the business, she is still energized by the prospect of discovering and developing great authors.

She has shepherded the careers of many exceptional New York Times bestselling authors, including Susan Wiggs, Sherryl Woods and Carla Neggers, and maintains that innovation is a key component to keeping a career fresh.

In her current role, she particularly loves developing the right publishing strategy for each author in order to achieve maximum commercial success. The focus at Harlequin Single Titles is finding and developing the best romance and commercial women's fiction authors out there. She is excited to announce the launch of Harlequin MIRA and Harlequin HQN Digital First programs, extensions of MIRA and HQN, with the same outstanding editorial and marketing teams.

For MIRA/MIRA Digital First she is looking for outstanding mainstream fiction of various kinds and genres, including women's fiction, multi-faceted contemporary romance, historical fiction, romantic suspense, paranormal novels and thrillers.

For HQN/HQN Digital First she is looking for compelling romance of all kinds, including contemporary, paranormal, historical, romantic suspense, erotic romance and New Adult.

When she's not enmeshed in a book, she likes to run, bike and swim. She lives in Maplewood, NJ with her husband, Sascha, and has three kids, 19, 16, and 13.

# A Capital Affair

Giovanna recently asked **Sheila Hodgson** of Harlequin what she is currently looking for in pitches and for which lines.



Sheila is looking for romances aimed across all the Harlequin romance series (as per the guidelines on Harlequin.com). Also for Carina Press (see guidelines on CarinaPress.com) in all genres, including mystery, sci fi & fantasy, and particularly longer length erotica and paranormal romance (70k+), New Adult, Contemporary Crack and male on male romance.

Sheila is also interested in submissions for Harlequin Digital First imprints (see guidelines on Harlequin.com.)

In addition, Sheila would like to see contemporary romance novels set in India, including Bollywood, aimed at the Indian market as follows:

- Modern/Presents style stories
- Aspirational themes
- Highly contemporary
- Contemporary alpha males
- Strong heroines
- Indian characters
- Strong sensual tension
- Indian culture and voice
- Bollywood, arranged marriage, engagements, Indian folklore, family elements, broader issues
- Set in India

H2H needs more proof-readers to share the load.

If you can give a few hours once every two or three months to proof an issue of H2H, we'd love you to volunteer your services.

Let me know [marjan@marjan.co.nz](mailto:marjan@marjan.co.nz)

# INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

## Colorado Gold Writing Contest (Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers)

**Deadline:** June 1, 2013

**Eligibility:** Unpublished writers of commercial novel length fiction.

**Enter:** First 20 pages of manuscript and a three to four page synopsis.

**Fee:** Entry US\$30 / optional critique US\$25

**More info:** [www.rmfw.org](http://www.rmfw.org)

## Minuet of Love Romance Novella Contest (Music City Romance Writers)

**Deadline:** June 1, 2013

**Eligibility:** Unpublished and published authors (entry must be unpublished).

**Enter:** First 10 pages of novella plus optional 250 word query/synopsis (not judged).

**Fee:** US\$15

**More info:** [www.mcrw.com](http://www.mcrw.com)

## Lone Star Writing Contest (Northwest Houston RWAmerica)

**Deadline:** June 8, 2013

**Eligibility:** Unpublished writers.

**Enter:** First 25 pages of your manuscript.

**Fee:** US\$25

**More info:** [www.nwhrwa.com](http://www.nwhrwa.com)

## Unpublished Maggie Award for Excellence (Georgia Romance Writers)

**Deadline:** June 10, 2013

**Eligibility:** Unpublished RWAmerica members.

**Enter:** Synopsis and prologue (if any) and first chapter(s) up to 35 pages total.

**Fee:** US\$30

**More info:**

[www.georgiaromancewriters.org](http://www.georgiaromancewriters.org).

## Indiana Golden Opportunity Contest (Indiana RWAmerica)

**Deadline:** July 1, 2013

**Eligibility:** Unpublished or not contracted in the past three years.

**Enter:** Synopsis (up to 10 pages) and opening of manuscript, maximum 55 pages total.

**Fee:** US\$35

**More info:** [www.indianarwa.com](http://www.indianarwa.com)

## Put Your Heart in a Book Contest (New Jersey RWAmerica)

**Deadline:** July 1, 2013

**Eligibility:** RWA members unpublished and not contracted in book-length fiction in last five years.

**Enter:** Synopsis and first chapter/prologue, maximum 30 pages total.

**Fee:** US\$35

**More info:** [www.njromancewriters.org](http://www.njromancewriters.org)



# SCHOLARSHIP

## 2013 Conference Scholarship Open



The **Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust** is offering a scholarship to the Romance Writers of NZ annual Conference, **A Capital Affair, August 23-25 in Wellington.**

Romance author Sandra Hyde (writing as Sandra Hyatt) passed away suddenly on August 21, 2011. Because so many have been touched by Sandra's life, either personally or through reading her wonderful books, her family has set up a trust to continue her legacy of generosity and kindness by furthering the career of an emerging writer.

An active member of Romance Writers of New Zealand, Sandra served on the executive for three terms and was always willing to reach out to new writers with advice and encouragement.

Money raised by the Trust will form an annual education grant, awarded to an aspiring NZ-based romance writer to enable them to attend a national or international writers Conference, to improve their craft and progress their writing goals.

### 2013 Prize:

RWNZ Conference fees (Friday Workshop and Weekend Conference, plus cocktail party). If the winner is not currently a member of RWNZ, their prize will include a one-year membership subscription, since only members can attend the Weekend Conference. The winner will also receive \$150 contribution toward expenses.

### Who can enter:

Any New Zealand-based writer of romantic fiction (published or unpublished).

### How to enter:

The Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust was established to benefit aspiring New Zealand romance writers. Please email your application, telling us a little about your writing career to date, how you are "aspiring", and why you would like to attend the RWNZ Conference. Your email should be no longer than one A4 printed page (feel free to make it shorter!) and should be in the body of your email. **DO NOT SEND AN ATTACHMENT.** Include your name, email address and phone numbers in the email. Send your email to the Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust on [sandrahydetrust@gmail.com](mailto:sandrahydetrust@gmail.com)

**Deadline to enter:** Midnight, NZ time, **Saturday June 1, 2013**

**Winner announced:** By **Monday, June 15, 2013.**

**Disclaimers:** The prize is Conference registration, as described, plus \$150 contribution toward expenses. Flights, additional hotel costs, breakfasts and dinners (including the Awards Dinner) and all other non-Conference meals, associated travel costs, and all other costs are the responsibility of the winner. If no applications are received that are deemed worthy of the award, the judges reserve the right not to make an award. The winner will be required to register for the Conference by the earlybird deadline of **June 30**, otherwise, the judges reserve the right to offer the prize to another applicant. The Conference fee will be paid directly to RWNZ with the \$150.00 toward expenses paid directly to the winner.

Please read the FAQ below for further information. Then get cracking! Good luck, we look forward to receiving your entry.

## The Trustees of the Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust

### FAQ

*I am a published author (or an unpublished author). Can I still enter?*

The award is open to both published and unpublished writers.

*I don't live in New Zealand. Can I still enter?*

No, sorry. The Trust deed specifies that the trust is for the benefit of New Zealand writers.

*I don't really write romance...my book is Young Adult / women's fiction / a thriller. Can I still enter?*

No, sorry. The award is for romance writers. You don't have to be a member of RWNZ, but you do have to be writing romance.

*Does the prize cover my travel costs?*

No. See the disclaimers above.

*Do I have to prove financial hardship to win this award?*

No. Hardship is just one reason why you might have an interest in this award. Go ahead and mention it if it's relevant, but don't worry if it's not.

*If I win, and then I decide I can't go to the Conference, can my friend use the prize instead?*

No. The prize is not transferable. If the winner is unable to make use of the prize, another winner will be chosen.

*Will you pay me the cash for the prize?*

No. We will pay RWNZ directly for your Conference fee, and will pay you a \$150 cheque toward expenses.

*I've already registered for the RWNZ Conference. Can I enter this award?*

Yes. You will be reimbursed for your Friday and Weekend Conference fees.

*Will you be running this award again next year?*

That's the plan! The Trust has received several donations to enable us to offer this scholarship. Thank you very much to everyone who has donated so far. If you'd like to make a donation, **email [sandrahydetrust@gmail.com](mailto:sandrahydetrust@gmail.com) for further details.**

*Who will select the winner?*

The decision will be made by the Trustees of the Sandra Hyde Romance Writers Trust. These include members of Sandra's family and some of her writing friends.

*Who can I contact with questions about this award?*

No one. Just use the information above to guide you. If something's not mentioned here, use common sense.

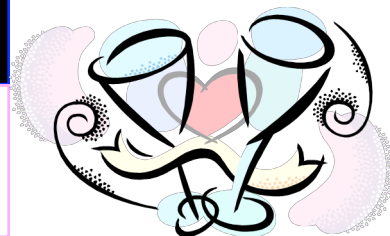
*How will I hear if I've won?*

The winner will be contacted via email or phone, and the result will be announced in *Heart to Heart*, the RWNZ newsletter

# Woos, Hoos, and News

**Celebrating our members' achievements.**

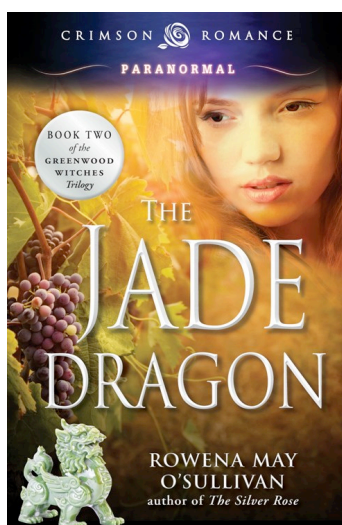
To be included on this page, email your successes to Jean Drew on [jeandrew@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jeandrew@xtra.co.nz)



S E Gilchrist has another short, hot, sci fi / futuristic romance **AWAKENING THE WARRIORS** to be released by Escape Publishing on 1st May 2013.

**FIRST SALE:** Sasha Cottman is excited to announce that Destiny Romance has accepted her debut novel **LETTER FROM A RAKE**. Due for release mid 2013.

Rowena O'Sullivan has a new release: **THE JADE DRAGON** Book II in the Greenwood Witches trilogy is out May 20 and will be available through Amazon, iTunes and other media outlets.



Yvonne Lindsay is excited to announce she has received two new contracts with Harlequin Desire—one is a three book contract for The Master Vintner books and a Billionaires and Babies title, and the other is for another continuity.

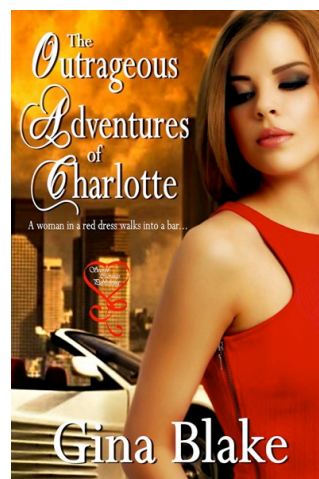
Cathryn Hein's third rural romance was released April 24 from Penguin Australia. **HEARTLAND** is available in Australia and New Zealand in print and eBook.

**SEVEN NIGHTS IN A ROGUE'S BED** by Anna Campbell finalled in the historical section of the Phoenix Desert Rose RWA Golden Quill Award.

**SEVEN NIGHTS IN A ROGUE'S BED** has also finalled in the historical category of the 2013 Wisconsin RWA Write Touch Readers Awards.

Janet Kortilever came first in the Contemporary Category of the RWA Gulf Coast, Silken Sands Self-Published Star Award with **LAURA'S BIG BREAK**.

Laverne Clark is thrilled to announce her third book, paranormal romance, **BEYOND THE SHADOWS**, will be published by The Wild Rose Press. AND, this will be her first paper book.



Jean Drew w/a Gina Blake has her latest cover from Secret Cravings. The **Outrageous Adventures of Charlotte**. **TOAOC** is released.



# RWNZ News Around the Regions

## *Keeping in touch with each other*

### Auckland

Nalini Singh gave us a valuable talk on Editing on 4 May and as she promised, it was not boring. You can never learn too much, especially from someone with Nalini's years of experience as a highly successful, published writer. Obviously a lot of people felt the same way as we had a turnout of thirty-five people and that was despite the waterfall going on all over Auckland. I think that might be a record attendance. It is since I've been coming to our Chapter meetings. Next meeting will be on Saturday 1 June – Rae Roadley will be speaking on Self Marketing and Promotion. Thank you, Rae. As usual this will be at the Three Kings Tennis Pavilion at 12.30 until 3.00 p.m. Please bring a gold coin donation, change for the raffles and a plate to share. Pamela Gervai, Convener for Auckland Chapter

### Central North (C2C)

What a great meeting of 13 people we had in Rotorua in April with Lyn Rasmussen (aka Leigh D'Ansey) as our hostess with Nicki Davidson, Jenny Yates and Deryn Pittar speaking of their experiences in the world of writing, agents and publishing.

The May meeting of 7 was at Shirley Wine's in Waihi with an interactive workshop on marketing.

The next meeting on Saturday June 15th will be at Deryn Pittar's home in Papamoa and Jenny Argante from Ocean Books will be the speaker. Shirley is currently #1 on Amazon's anthology Kindle list in conjunction with other RWNZ writers! Yay! Helen Macfarlane, Convener C2C

### Wellington/Kapiti

Our April meeting took place at Ellie's – just like old times! Members were asked to bring the opening paragraph of a novel, and with a few extras sneaked in, these were passed from person to person for 'additions'. It was interesting to see the directions the stories took. The annual Conference, and pitching to editors and agents, were discussed.

Our May meeting took place at Joan's, and we welcomed new member Margaret. She and Peter were brave enough to read out some of their work. Joan has volunteered to be our June host as well, and because of Queen's Birthday weekend we're deferring that meeting until Saturday 8 June – still at 1pm. Kris Pearson.

### Nelson

Our May meeting was almost entirely about the Nalini Singh World-building Workshop that we had on Saturday 27 April. It was such a success and we learnt heaps. We were all in awe of how easily approached Nalini was to all our questions and the exercise with the pre-workshop homework she'd given us made us understand what it's all about.

We have already thanked Nalini, but once again A BIG BUNCH OF ROSES TO YOU, Nalini! Thank you also for donating four of your novels to our raffle, a great surprise. And THANK YOU Giovanna for donating a year's RWNZ membership to one lucky winner. Jackie Davies – a long time member in our group won it! As a convener of our group, I also want to give an ARMFUL OF ROSES to all our members, who worked so hard to make this happen! To our delight there were some participants from outside the Nelson region and we've got great feedback from them. So much so that we're seriously thinking of alternating between a short story competition and a workshop of this calibre every second year.

At our meeting we also welcomed a new prospective member and she seemed to enjoy herself, so we hope she's come to stay. The June meeting will be Saturday 8 June. May it be a great writing month for us all.



## REGIONAL CONVENORS

### Auckland:

**Pamela Gervai**

email: [pamela@petware.co.nz](mailto:pamela@petware.co.nz)

### Central North (C2C):

**Helen Macfarlane**

email: [helenmac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helenmac@xtra.co.nz)

### Hawkes Bay:

**Kristina O'Grady**

email: [maple-leaf@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:maple-leaf@hotmail.co.nz)

### Wellington:

**Leeann Morgan**

email: [morgan.leeann@clear.net.nz](mailto:morgan.leeann@clear.net.nz)

### Nelson:

**Annika Ohlson-Smith**

email: [allan-annika@xtra.co.nz](mailto:allan-annika@xtra.co.nz)

### Blenheim:

**Iona Jones**

email: [iona.jones@xtra.co.nz](mailto:iona.jones@xtra.co.nz)

### Christchurch:

**Jill Scott**

email: [scotts@snap.net.nz](mailto:scotts@snap.net.nz)

### Otago:

**Sarah Addison Rowe**

email: [rowefamily3@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rowefamily3@xtra.co.nz)

### Nalini Singh with Nelson Members at the Workshop

One shows how much fun we had and the other is of Nalini with Jacquie Davies winning the RWNZ membership. Annika Ohlson-Smith





### REUTS PUBLICATIONS

a publishing agency.

author-publishing set up, digital and print.

**Seeking:** a really good story. Currently asking for fiction 'geared towards Young Adult and New Adult audiences' in the following genres, paranormal, fantasy, science fiction, horror and romance. Read the guidelines and the blog.

**Length:** 50,000 words plus

Response time is four to six weeks.

Payment is royalties 'well above average' for the usual rights.

**Details:** Reuts Publications,

website: <http://www.reuts.com>; email submissions

to: [submissions@reuts.com](mailto:submissions@reuts.com); email queries to:

[hello@reuts.com](mailto:hello@reuts.com) with Submission Enquiry in the

subject line; guidelines at:

<http://www.reuts.com/submissions>

### SPARK: A CREATIVE ANTHOLOGY

quarterly anthology, a zine

open to all

**Seeking:** Poetry, Flash Fiction, Short Stories, and Creative Non-Fiction.

**Length:** Stories up to 12,000 words. Flash Fiction, usually 500 to 750 words. Do check out the website and read the detailed guidelines before submitting.

Response time reasonable

Payment is 1¢ per word or US\$10 per work, to a maximum of US\$100.

**Details:** Spark: A Creative Anthology,

website: <http://sparkanthology.org>;

Pre-submission questions:

[query@sparkanthology.org](mailto:query@sparkanthology.org); submit using the online

submission system; guidelines:

<https://sparkanthology.submittable.com/submit>

### 'PARABLE PRESS'

zine

open to all

**Seeking:** 'your distraught, your divine, your delicately stable stories of what it is that makes you human.'

The setting must be 'our present world.'

**Length:** Varies according to needs. Check the guidelines.

Response time is 'quick'

Payment and Rights: under contract.

**'Parable Press',**

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

email queries only to: [parablepress@gmail.com](mailto:parablepress@gmail.com);

submit using their online system,

guidelines:

<http://parablepressmag.com/submissions>

### CHOC LIT

**Choc Lit Lite**

e books imprint.

open to all

**Seeking:** romance in all its forms except erotica.

Details at the website. Must have strong male

heroes who are 'irresistible', a well developed plot and 3D characters.

**Length:** novellas, 30,000; novels, 100,000 words.

Response time is 'reasonable'.

Payment is 'industry standard royalties' plus author's copies.

**Details:** Choc Lit Books

website: [www.choc-lit.com](http://www.choc-lit.com);

email: [submissions@choc-lit.com](mailto:submissions@choc-lit.com);

guidelines at: [www.choc-lit.com](http://www.choc-lit.com)

### 'PEACHES MAGAZINE'

Not for Grandma!

e zine.

open to all

**Seeking:** stories, 'well-written, explicit erotic fiction' with a 'focus on sensuality. Check out the website, study the guidelines.

**Length:** Articles, 400 to 600 words, stories 'from flash to long.'

Submit articles through the submission system at the website.

Response time is 'Quick'.

Payment is US\$25 for articles. Payment for erotica is US\$25 flat rate, plus 'an ongoing 40% royalty.'

Rights bought are electronic only with 'six months' exclusivity on the website, lifetime non-exclusive.'

**'Peaches Magazine',**

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

submit at the website:

<http://peachesmag.com/submission-form>

guidelines:

<http://peachesmag.com/submission-guidelines>;

erotica submissions at:

<http://peachesmag.com/erotic-submissions>

### BLACK ROSE WRITING

e and POD books

open to all

**Seeking:** Romance in all its forms

**Length:** novellas, 30,000; novels, 100,000 words.

Response time is 'reasonable'.

Payment is 'above average.'

website: <http://www.blackrosewriting.com>;

email: [creator@blackrosewriting.com](mailto:creator@blackrosewriting.com)

guidelines: [http://www.blackrosewriting.com/](http://www.blackrosewriting.com/Submission_guidelines_.pdf)

[Submission\\_guidelines\\_.pdf](http://www.blackrosewriting.com/Submission_guidelines_.pdf)



## *But wait . . . there's more . . .*

### EDITOR'S DESK

Somehow the months are going by faster and faster – probably because I am still getting into the rhythm of this thing. In fact the months have overtaken me and we have had to do a May/June amalgamation just to catch up. Mea culpa, it won't happen again.

I am aware that all I seem to be doing is collating the information and passing it on via proof-reader and formatter but I would really love to have more members contribute to the content. This month Joanne Hill, Diana Fraser, Janet Elizabeth Henderson and Gwendoline Ewins got together to discuss self-publishing and Joanne Hill wrote it up for H2H, updating us on any changes/developments in the field.

Viv Adams has passed on wonderful sources for articles, which I will raid from time to time. You may have read them some time ago or come across them in other newsletters/magazines, but every so often it helps to go over the same ground for the new members/writers, and for others who may rejoice in the refreshers. If you have read a great article that you think may interest other members, let me know and I'll try to get a permission to reprint.

In the middle of my chaotic editorial duties, Jaculin Petherick came as the goddess from the machine and offered her skills as a formatter. Angela Bissell (goddess from the same machine I think) did the same for the proof-reading as Chris and Ellie were both unable to do it. Thank you ladies.

We are looking for some additional proof-readers so we can manage that on a rostered basis. Any takers?

I wonder how the book in a year is going for some of you, maybe you'd like to tell us how you're going. I realise that for some that could be an unburdening of too much information; instead of "I have lost xxx kilos", we could brag about how many words we've put on.

Yours via the pen/keyboard

Marjan

|                             |                                                                                             |                                   |                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Vice President              | Leeann Morgan<br><a href="mailto:morgan.leeann@clear.co.nz">morgan.leeann@clear.co.nz</a>   | Membership<br>Secretary           | Kris Pearson<br><a href="mailto:Kris.p@paradise.net.nz">Kris.p@paradise.net.nz</a>             |
| Treasurer                   | Deborah Shattock<br><a href="mailto:rdhs@xtra.co.nz">rdhs@xtra.co.nz</a>                    | Principal Contests<br>Coordinator | Kamy Chetty<br><a href="mailto:kamychetty@yahoo.com">kamychetty@yahoo.com</a>                  |
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| Publicity<br>Officer        | Sue Brebner<br><a href="mailto:brebfox@slingshot.co.nz">brebfox@slingshot.co.nz</a>         | H2H<br>Proofreading               | Chris Taylor<br><a href="mailto:christaylor@antihill.com.au">christaylor@antihill.com.au</a>   |

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[NZromance-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NZromance-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
or contact Suzanne Perazzini

[suzanne.perazzini@orcon.net.nz](mailto:suzanne.perazzini@orcon.net.nz)  
for more information.