

# HEART TO HEART



Featuring



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**ROMANCE WRITERS OF NEW ZEALAND**

The countdown has begun!

You're invited to the Waipara Hotel and Conference Centre in Auckland between the 14-17 August for the 27th Romance Writers of New Zealand conference.

We have an amazing line-up of international and national speakers coming to Auckland. We have three 'streams' of topics to choose from: craft, self-publishing, and genre. There's a whole lot of everything covered - the trick will be deciding what workshops you can't live without!

This is the premier event for New Zealand writers. You won't want to miss it.

Go to [www.romancewriters.co.nz](http://www.romancewriters.co.nz) to register for the best conference of your life!



**HARLEQUIN**  
entertain, enrich, inspire™

[WWW.ROMANCEWRITERS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.ROMANCEWRITERS.CO.NZ)

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**From The President's Pen**  
What's happening in RWNZ?  
President Lesman Morgan brings us up to date with the latest.

**Conference News**  
Hello everyone! I hope you're all getting excited about the upcoming conference. It's time to start planning your trip to Auckland for the 27th Romance Writers of New Zealand conference. The dates are 14-17 August 2014. The venue is the Waipara Hotel and Conference Centre. We have a fantastic line-up of speakers and workshops. Don't miss out! Register now at [www.romancewriters.co.nz](http://www.romancewriters.co.nz).

**Welcome to RWNZ's Promotions Team**  
Yes - YOU!

If you are not one of our members, you will be missing out on all the benefits of being a member. We have a fantastic line-up of speakers and workshops. Don't miss out! Register now at [www.romancewriters.co.nz](http://www.romancewriters.co.nz).

**The Koru Award 2014**  
This is a Reader's Choice Award. Copyright is to be 2013. First round to be judged by readers not belonging to any writing organisation.

**Second round to be judged by Book Store owners, Librarians and members of Bookline.**

**OPEN:** 1st April 2014  
**CLOSE:** 31st May 2014  
**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to New Zealand and Australian published authors. This includes self-published and independently published.

**CATEGORIES:**

- Best First Romance Novel published between 1/1/13 and 31/12/13. The novel must be a romance novel, published in New Zealand or Australia. The novel must be a minimum of 100,000 words. The novel must be published in paperback or e-book format. The novel must be published by a New Zealand or Australian publisher.
- Best First Romance Novel published between 1/1/14 and 31/12/14. The novel must be a romance novel, published in New Zealand or Australia. The novel must be a minimum of 100,000 words. The novel must be published in paperback or e-book format. The novel must be published by a New Zealand or Australian publisher.
- Best First Romance Novel published between 1/1/15 and 31/12/15. The novel must be a romance novel, published in New Zealand or Australia. The novel must be a minimum of 100,000 words. The novel must be published in paperback or e-book format. The novel must be published by a New Zealand or Australian publisher.

**ENTER FEE:** \$200 per entry (includes 10 copies of the novel and 10 copies of the award certificate).

**Prizes:** 1st prize: \$1000, 2nd prize: \$500, 3rd prize: \$250, 4th prize: \$100, 5th prize: \$50, 6th prize: \$25, 7th prize: \$10, 8th prize: \$5, 9th prize: \$2, 10th prize: \$1.

**ENTER BY:** 31st May 2014

**Prizes:** 1st prize: \$1000, 2nd prize: \$500, 3rd prize: \$250, 4th prize: \$100, 5th prize: \$50, 6th prize: \$25, 7th prize: \$10, 8th prize: \$5, 9th prize: \$2, 10th prize: \$1.

**ROMANCE WRITERS OF NEW ZEALAND**

**Chapter**  
SHORT STORY CONTEST 2014

**Final Judge: Gwyneth Davies Fiction Editor, English Women's Weekly**

**OPEN:** 1st April 2014  
**CLOSE:** 31st May 2014  
**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to RWNZ members, published and unpublished.

**Prizes:** 1st prize: \$1000, 2nd prize: \$500, 3rd prize: \$250, 4th prize: \$100, 5th prize: \$50, 6th prize: \$25, 7th prize: \$10, 8th prize: \$5, 9th prize: \$2, 10th prize: \$1.

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## Conference News

Hello Everyone

I hope you're all getting excited about the upcoming conference. I know I am.

I am having a real problem choosing which workshops I am going to be choosing at the moment, but thankfully I will be able to swap notes with my great writer colleagues.

The conference committee is still looking for sponsors so if anyone has any contacts that you think we could approach, please let me know and I will send you in the right direction. Both Cheryl and Wendy have been hard at work at getting things organised and I know they would love to get a few more sponsors lined up to make our conference the best 21<sup>st</sup> ever.

For those of you who are keen to book into the Waipuna, please call them directly to get the special rates. We have had a small hitch with the booking codes via the online booking, but they are happy to take your calls and you can get those rates, so book those rooms asap.

In the next few months we will be looking at setting up a spreadsheet for taking pitches. So watch this space for more news. These are exciting times.

Keep those registrations coming and start saving those gold coins for those raffles.

Warm Regards, Kamy—Your  
Conference Convenor

## From The President's Pen

### What's happening in RWNZ?

President **Leeann Morgan** brings us up to date with the news...

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



Hi everyone

Another month closer to conference! We've published amazing articles from some of our conference presenters over the last three months in H2H. Thank you to Yvonne Lindsay, James Scott Bell, Courtney Milan and Marie Force for an insight into what makes them the awesome writers that they are.

This month, Tina Folsom is sharing her paranormal fangs with us in her article, *Why I like vampires so much.* For all writers who dip into the world of shapeshifters, werewolves, witches, warlocks and all things muscle bound and sexy, Tina's paranormal romance workshops are an absolute must at this year's conference.

Have you booked your accommodation at the Waipuna? Please follow the directions on the website to get a fantastic conference deal. \$130 plus GST per night gets you a room for one or two people, free internet, free parking and the best weekend of your life!

Don't forget to book your Thursday night with Jim Azevedo – this is a free event for all RWNZ members. If you've wondered about the world of self-publishing then you won't get a better chance to listen to one of the best business minds in the world. As Marketing Manager of Smashwords, Jim has a huge insight into the changing world of publishing.

There's so much happening in RWNZ! Last month we launched the Koru Award, our first ever competition for all published writers. Kamy has provided an overview of the Award in this month's H2H. The RWNZ website has the full set of criteria and rules. The Koru Award closes on 2 May 2014, so get those entries organised and send them in.

The Chapter Short Story Competition, Sponsored by [Chapter book cafe and tea shop](#) is RWNZ's annual short story contest. It's open to both published and unpublished writers and closes at the end of May. Full details are available on our website.

Two other projects are underway; we will be reviewing and updating our rules, specifically around plagiarism, and updating our website. We'll be asking for feedback on both projects, so keep an eye out for more emails coming your way soon.

A huge amount of work has been going on behind the scenes in the last six months, and I'd like to thank each and every person who has gone above and beyond to make RWNZ a supportive and exciting organisation.

Enjoy reading this month's H2H! Kind regards, Leeann

# Welcome to RWNZ's Promotions Team

## Yes – YOU!

by Kris Pearson



If we all did one very small job, we'd be a mighty force. Right now the big job is drawing attention to our 2014 conference. We have such a fantastic list of celebrity speakers that we should be able to attract more conference attendees than ever before.

So what can you do? Well, for starters read again in our earlier H2H editions about James Scott Bell! Marie Force! Courtney Milan! Tina Folsom! Jim Azevedo! Who in their right mind wouldn't want to hear these people speak?

On Page 5 in this APRIL issue of Heart to Heart there's a bright red and black conference poster. If you right-click on it, you can print some copies for yourself. One to tape onto the back passenger window of your car so it will catch the eye of people in the supermarket car-park or anywhere else you might be. And for other willing friends or family members' cars. One for the supermarket notice-board, the library and the local cafe. Several to attach to neighbourhood power poles. (Go on – it's fun sneaking around suburbia at night with a pile of posters and some tape or a staple-gun! Or send the kids out to do it.) Yes, the paper won't last long, but people might see the posters before they disappear – and maybe burgle them off the poles for details...

With any luck we'll be able to get a version with bigger dates and the website for the next issue of Heart to Heart.

Do you tweet? Here are several pre-made tweets to copy and paste for sending in future weeks. Don't do it so often you annoy your followers! I reckon there'll be a few people among them who just might be interested. A

friend helped with these because I don't tweet. Get inventive and do better if you can. Share your efforts on the loop.

Join us in Auckland as we celebrate the 21st Romance Writers of New Zealand Conference.

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/2014-conference/> #RWNZ14

#1 Bestselling author of Plot & Structure, James Scott Bell, presenting workshops in NZ. <http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/2014-conference/> #RWNZ14

Romance Writers of New Zealand Conference: Casino Royale 2014. August 14-17. <http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/2014-conference/> #RWNZ14 @NZRomance

Friends on Facebook? They'd love to know about it. I've just been through a huge exercise on behalf of my Spanish book. Having put out feelers for Spanish-speaking friends, I found well over a hundred of them keen to know me. I can't speak Spanish, but I said to each of them 'Hello from Wellington' and added my website address and a photo of the harbour. Easy as. The statcounter showed my website hits went through the roof. Nearly everyone replied to my Facebook page, and then they started sending me new friends. Great publicity at no cost. After a while I stopped sending the harbour and substituted my book cover.

You could send all your friends a reminder or two about conference. Attach a photo. A scenic shot of Auckland. A photo from the last conference cocktail party. Something you grabbed off Waipuna's website. The poster. Anything that makes you look like a member of a vibrant organisation with a great conference your friends might like to attend. Add this

# Welcome to RWNZ's Promotions Team

## Yes – YOU!

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website address for them.

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/2014-conference/> And do it again in a couple of weeks with a different photo. Tell them how much you're looking forward to it. Repetition really works, and you'll know you've made your contribution to the over-all effort.

We need to send publicity to as many writing groups and book clubs as possible. Do you belong to one? Know someone who does? Send their email address to Kate Kyle ([scribocin@gmail.com](mailto:scribocin@gmail.com)) and she'll take it from there.

Small-town residents – you have an advantage. Let your local radio station or community newspaper know about the conference. Push your own part in it – especially if you're providing a workshop or have placed in one of our contests.

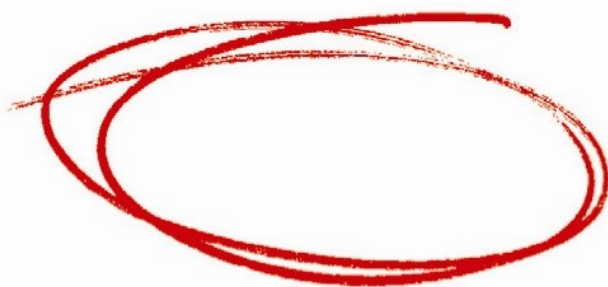
They love news items about local people. Blowing your own trumpet graciously never hurts.

Perhaps you can get a poster up in a bookshop window so the store looks as though they're supporting the local writing community – never bad.

Realistically it's hard to get onto national TV or into the big magazines, but if you have any contacts, go for it. They'll probably prefer to wait until conference time and cover that and our famous guests, but we'll take what we can get.

So go on – be a part of our promo. Lots of small efforts will soon add up.

Kris Pearson



**THE NEW ZEALAND  
SOCIETY OF AUTHORS**

(PEN NEW ZEALAND INC) TE PUNI KAITUHI O AOTEAROA

Details at [www.authors.org.nz](http://www.authors.org.nz)

### Applications are being called for the NZSA 2014 Manuscript Assessment Programme

Do you have work to an advanced stage  
requiring the objective view of an  
experienced assessor?

Successful applicants receive a detailed  
report on the manuscript's strengths and  
weaknesses, suggestions for improvement  
and a 2 hour Q & A with the assessor.

**Deadline 30 May 2014**





# CASINO ROYALE

ROMANCE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

14-17 AUGUST 2014

**WAIPUNA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE**

58 WAIPUNA ROAD, MT WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND

[WWW.ROMANCEWRITERS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.ROMANCEWRITERS.CO.NZ)



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# Romance Writers of New Zealand Inc.

*Presents the inaugural  
Award of Excellence for New Zealand and Australian Writers*



## *The Koru Award 2014*

*This is a Readers Choice Award. Copyright has to be 2013.  
First round to be judged by readers not belonging to any writing  
organization.*

*Second round to be judged by Book Store owners, Librarians and  
members of Bookclubs*

**OPENS:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

**CLOSES:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to New Zealand and Australian published writers.  
This includes e-published and Independently Published

- CATEGORIES:**
- Short Sweet Romance: Novels and novellas between 40,000 and 60,000 words. The Love Story is the main focus of the novel, the end of the book has to have an emotionally satisfying conclusion and an optimistic outlook. Love scenes can be present but not explicit. E.g. HMB Sweet, HMB Medical, Entangled Bliss, Avalon
  - Short Sexy Romance: Novels and novellas between 40,000 and 60,000 words. The love story should still be the main focus, and you should still have an emotionally satisfying end, but the love scenes are fully realised e.g. HMB Sexy, Desire, Entangled Brazen
  - Long Romance: Novels over 60,000 words. The love story is still the main focus. Love scenes contain any level of heat or sensuality. Can be any imprint e.g. Historical, Suspense, Avon

**ENTRY FEE:** NZ\$35 per entry (payable to RWNZ) for current financial members of RWNZ  
A non-refundable payment of NZ\$50.00 per entry (payable to RWNZ) for New Zealand or Australian non-members of RWNZ

**e-published and Independently published books will be accepted in book bound or spiral bound galley print format (Copies)**

Romance Writers of New Zealand Inc.

*presents...*



## ***SHORT STORY CONTEST 2014***

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

**OPENS:** 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**CLOSES:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to RWNZ members, published and unpublished

**SUBMIT:** 1800-word (computer count) short story with some mystery, humour, relationships and family issues, with warmth still being an important factor. Not forgetting the romantic thread or element.

**If chosen your story can be published in the Woman's Weekly**

**(Up to 3 entries by the same author may be entered)**

**PRIZES:** Kindly sponsored by *Chapter*

First: \$250 gift voucher

Second: \$150 gift voucher

Third: \$100 gift voucher

**ENTRY FEE:** \$NZ20.00

Details will be available on the website in due course

# IS INDIE STILL 'IT'?

by Joanne Hill



Over the past few years, *Heart to Heart* has featured articles on the indie publishing revolution from the “here’s how we did it” stories, to the “what I’ve learnt along the way” follow up. A year on, and is indie still the way to go in this ever-changing publishing world?

It’s an over whelming YES – but the landscape has changed yet again.

A few years back, our unknown authors could put a great book with a great cover up on Amazon for “sale” for free and were almost guaranteed a follow on in great real-money sales – now there is no guarantee of that. Social media remains at best controversial – some swear by it, others ignore it as a time suck, while others see it as a cheap and easy way to connect with readers. More traditionally published authors are becoming “hybrid” and enjoy the best of both publishing worlds, while others are leaving their publishers, such as Stephanie Bond who now self-publishes new and old e-books on Amazon, as well as print and audio with full control over her career. Well known names in the biz such as Barbara Freethy are self-publishing. Digital has enabled Jane Porter to become a “publisher” with her Tule imprint.

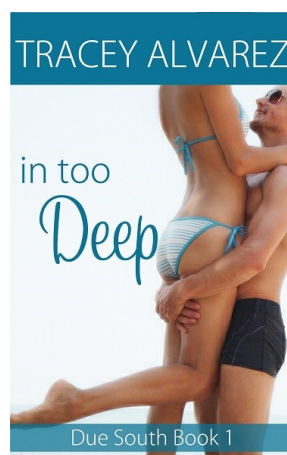
Indie used to be what you did to get discovered so you could get a print contract (such as Amanda Hocking) - now indies are wondering why they would sign over a potential 70% royalty rate to a print publisher who is only going to promote it for a few months. Traditionally published authors are scrambling to get their rights back to juice up those stories and gain a new income stream, or are taking books their editors rejected and publishing them.

As unpublished authors, it has given us an option no one had a few years ago. Our careers are no longer defined by the editor who reads two lines of the first page and rejects us, and dooms us. That is not to blame editors and publishers. There is nothing, absolutely *nothing*, that says because you write a book, someone has to love it and spend their money to publish it. But

unbelievably, miraculously, we now have choice. We can write business plans for our careers based not just on hope. We no longer have to suck those rejections up, and try desperately to keep hanging on to that clifftop by the tips of our fingers.

We can still target the “Big Six” publishers or, if we want to, the small press. Or we can do it ourselves. We didn’t have that choice before and that is why so many of us have tried Indie and for now, at least, in this evolving landscape – we love it.

## TRACEY ALVAREZ



I’ve always been a bit different. Not in a crazy-cat-lady sense, but in a quiet non-mainstream sense. I home-schooled my two kids for eight years. I also lived for a long stretch in an isolated area with alternative power. I like the choice of doing things my way. One of

the biggest draws to Indie publishing is the freedom to write and publish how I want. If I decide to leave in those extra two paragraphs, I can. If I want a non-traditional occupation for the heroine in my romance (eg. a police diver recovering a body in scene one), I can have it.

Another draw is community. I’ve made wonderful writer friends and I enjoy helping them with their journey because we’re all in the trenches together. And it really is a trench battle—at least for me. I’ve stepped more out of my comfort zone in the last year than ever before. Suddenly there’s cover design, formatting, keywords, SEO, social networking, promotion websites, blog tours, rafflecopter, marketing, and advertising to master...the list



# IS INDIE STILL 'IT'? by Joanne Hill

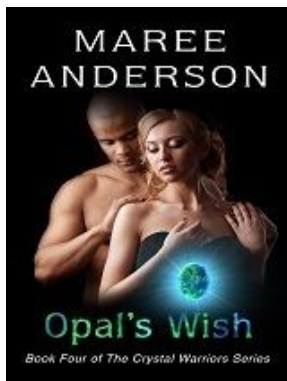
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goes on.

Going Indie isn't easy. It isn't right for everyone. But for me, going Indie means I can continue to make my own choices.

## MAREE ANDERSON



I decided to indie-publish for two reasons: 1) I had a less-than stellar experience with my small press publisher, and, 2) I had a heap of manuscripts in various genres (including two three-book series), that I'd

been querying for years to no avail. I decided to test the waters with a YA and a paranormal romance, both of which had won writing awards.

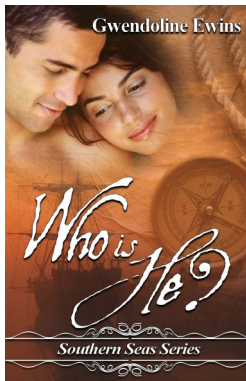
I loved the control I had of each step of the publishing process, and knowing that I was the only one to blame if anything went wrong during one of those steps... and that I could fix it! Earning some decent money is a plus, too. As is being able to write whatever takes my fancy. Two-and-a-half years on, I'm about to indie-publish my eleventh book (or thirteenth, if you count the three-book bundles) and I have no plans to stop until the story ideas dry up.

When I started out, indie-publishing was treated a bit like vanity publishing: you only did it because you weren't "good enough" to score a traditional publishing contract, and any indie-author who did really well was considered an anomaly. Now, I firmly believe indie-publishing is a viable career choice for authors.

## GWENDOLINE EWINS

I've had to be willing to learn technical stuff I don't want to know. It used to take me hours - no days, weeks, months - to choose a Dreamstime image and work on a cover with

the very basic tools I had at my disposal. They never looked right and the best I ever came up with was the blond girl on the



beach, but even she lacked the professional look. There are designers out there offering pre-made e-covers that don't cost the earth - years ago I was told the sort of cover I wanted would come with a \$500 price tag - for every cover. I've since discovered a whole industry gathering around e-

publishing, and most particularly a world of cover designers. They will work with you to produce the perfect individual cover (starting at about US\$250) or show you a portfolio with a range of pre-made covers with your own name, title etc. starting at about US\$55.

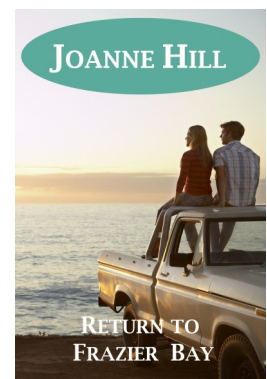
## JOANNE HILL

I began publishing 15 months ago because I'd seen the success of Kiwi authors and it was now a legitimate alternative to print, especially as I've never wanted to be published by anyone other than a "name" publisher - too many bad

stories of rip offs, losing your rights, not to mention awful covers and editing and all for enough money to buy a latte once a week. I don't see the point in that. It was either a big name or nothing, so indie publishing has truly saved my sanity.

Some months there are no royalty cheques, then there'll be a blip and I get sales. I don't sell so well on Amazon at the moment, yet I do sell on the Aussie and Kiwi iTunes as well as Barnes and Noble.

The buzz word seems to be "visibility" so



# IS INDIE STILL 'IT'?

by Joanne Hill

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readers know you exist and the dilemma is how you achieve that. Through some serendipity moments, I'm now part of two groups, [www.Sweetromancereads.com](http://www.Sweetromancereads.com) and [www.enovelauthorsatwork.com](http://www.enovelauthorsatwork.com). I'm the lowly one, as a lot of my author pals are current or former Harlequin authors, so I get exposure off them. This year I've decided to give promotion a go, and have taken part in two blog tours with eNovelAuthors. No concrete sales but amazing exposure/visibility. Key to the whole thing has been determining my *Joanne Hill* brand – sweet, emotional, humorous - and I'm extremely happy with that. In spite of going indie, I still see advantages to being traditionally published and haven't written them off at all, though that may be me being stubborn and just refusing to give up!

## TONI KENYON



In 2012 I went to RWA Nationals in Anaheim, courtesy of the trustees of the Sandra Hyde Memorial Trust. One reason I was chosen was because I was an unpublished romance writer who needed a hand to the 'next level'. While I was away I learnt as much as I could about self-

publishing. I spoke to authors who were successful and came away armed with a dizzying amount of information and contacts.

I'd had requests from publishing companies, but I just couldn't seem to make the cut. The final straw came when I'd been working with an editor, done two complete rewrites of a story and was 'orphaned' when she went on maternity leave. The replacement editor just didn't 'get' the story.

I vowed 'no more,' pushed my fears aside, held my breath and dived into the indie pool. In

September 2012 I published "Private Love in a Public Place" and I haven't looked back. What's changed? I've traded:

Rejection letters for returns from Amazon;

Reader comments in competition feedback forms for online reviews;

Spending money on mailing manuscripts to receiving money for sales of books;

Haunting my inbox for editor/agent responses for haunting Amazon for sales statistics and reviews.

Writing inside a line's expectations for writing for my fans (I have fans, I know, amazing - they email and tell me what they like so I can write more of it).

It's a whole lot of work, but it's incredibly rewarding. It's not for everyone, but it suits me perfectly. I'm 'anal' and 'a control freak' so I get to be totally in charge of everything (except for covers - Kevin's in charge of covers) and I like that.

I'm my own little publishing empire.

## SORAYA LANE

If someone had asked me at the start of my career if I'd ever self-publish my books, my answer would have been *hell no*. I didn't like the idea of e-publishing and I wanted to go traditional – end of story. Fast forward a few years and I love the fact



that I'm a hybrid author, self publishing as well as working with some great traditional publishers. Nothing beats the thrill of holding a mass market paperback with your name on it... except the financial gains that are possible with indie publishing! I can honestly say that in 2013, the bulk of my income was from the books I

# IS INDIE STILL 'IT'? by Joanne Hill

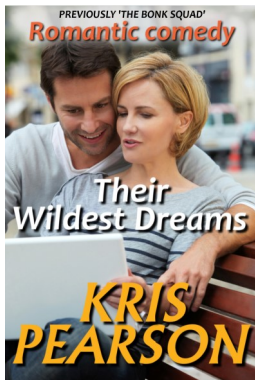
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published with Amazon KDP Select, and it was self publishing that allowed me to quit my day job. It's so exciting being able to write books in multiple genres, and have control over the entire process from marketing through to pricing. My agent now edits all of my self published books in exchange for 15% of my indie income, and we've become a great team.

Indie publishing has also helped me to secure a publishing contract on my most successful self-published book, with Amazon acquiring *The War Bride Club* for re-release later this year in electronic, print and audio, under their Lake Union imprint.

## KRIS PEARSON



I count myself very lucky to have gotten into indie publishing in late 2011 – and also lucky that I had a reasonable body of work right from the start. You can read more about this on

<http://krispearson.com/blog/2014/02/waiting-waiting>

It's definitely harder to sell books now than it was a year ago. The numbers out there are much greater and a lot of authors now either have traditional publishing houses backing them, or are happy to really hustle for the sales.

It's fascinating to see what works – and great to be able to change it if it doesn't. A case in point is my romantic comedy 'The Bonk Squad'. Okay, silly name and I shot myself in the foot. It's a different book from all my others, and despite some lovely reviews it really doesn't sell well. By the time you read this it will be re-launched with a new cover and a new title.

What do you think of 'Their Wildest Dreams'? At least the iBook Stores won't have to call it The B\*\*k Squad any longer!

## CAMILLE OSTER

Coming into the publishing world from the free-range fan-fiction realm, it quickly became clear that the alien traditional publishing with its long history of norms, rules and traditions would never accept the stories I like to write, leaving me with the dodgy wild west of self-publishing.



As self-publishing has effectively moved the slush pile into the hands of readers, visibility is key, but the tools for discovery in an unregulated world are incomplete. Fan-fiction has a much better system for this, where readers assign their liked stories to favourite lists and finding stories is about finding similar readers. Goodreads has this potential, but it isn't quite there yet, leaving authors at the mercy of the shifting sands of Amazon's algorithms.

Writing niche stories have worked for me on the visibility front. A pirate story and an ancient world story has gotten me on the emails Amazon sends out to readers with those niche tastes, and on the 'also like' banners for those niche books' pages. Advertising is the current obsession of many, but I'm not sure it will reach a matched readership, particularly if you write a little skewed of the rules. Over time, tools will evolve, but for now, none of us seem have a clear or obvious path to where we want to go, but who doesn't like surprises

*Joanne Hill (aka Graves) is a founding member of RWNZ and former President. Her fourth independently published sweet romance, Return to Frazier Bay, will be available in April from the Apple book store and Amazon. Twitter: @joanneauthor [www.joannehill.com](http://www.joannehill.com)*



# CONTESTS UPDATE



This month we have the Chapter Short Story Contest and we have the close of the Pacific Hearts Contest. I do hope you have taken the opportunity to enter this fabulous contest and if there is still time to get your entry in, please do.

The Chapter Short Story is a great way to test yourself on writing tight, smart and short. It's open to published and unpublished writers and the final judge is Gaynor Davies from Woman's weekly. There is an opportunity you can have your story published in Woman's weekly. Also as a bonus the top ten stories are published each year in Liaisons Magazine and next year we are going green and making this an e-zine which will give us wider coverage.

We are also announcing the inaugural Koru Award this year. Details to be found in this issue of the H2H. I would like to thank Nalini Singh, Chapter Books: 442 Mt Eden Rd, Mt Eden Village, Books Alive: 32 Bridge St Tokoroa, Browsers Bookshop: 221 Victoria St, Hamilton 3204 for their help in getting us reader judges for the Koru award.

The Great Beginnings Contest will be held in September this Year.

So get those story ideas ready and good luck.

Thank you to Sue Mackay who will be taking over as Principle Contests Co-ordinator. Here's hoping for a fabulous year of many successes ahead.

Warm regards

Kamy

## 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)



Kris Pearson has relaunched her romantic comedy The Bonk Squad with a new title and cover. It's now THEIR WILDEST DREAMS

Spicy romance that transcends time  
[www.jeandrew.co.nz](http://www.jeandrew.co.nz)

[jeandrew@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jeandrew@xtra.co.nz)

<http://adventuresinauthorland.blogspot.com>





# WHY I LOVE VAMPIRES

by Tina Folsom



Ever since I can think of, vampires have fascinated me. At first when watching *Nosferatu*, I was scared out of my skull, but when I saw *Dracula* (the Gary Oldman version), my feelings were entirely different. So I started to examine what I'm truly drawn to when I think of these preternatural creatures. Is it their strength, their superiority, or even their sexuality? Or is it something much more elemental, something much more at the heart of each human's existence?

Mortality—I would be lying if I didn't admit that I'm scared of dying. The thought that I'll be gone one day, my thoughts and my mind vanishing into thin air as my body decomposes, has me hoping that soon the scientists will invent something that stops the aging process and has us live longer. I feel like bargaining: just an extra 20 years, please. And then I start thinking about the vampires. And it hits me: what attracts me to them is their immortality.

The attraction that lies within that one word is undeniable: immortality. It gives you the chance to see more than just a tiny slice of history. It allows you to be part of different eras, to experience the shifts that span generations. And to constantly change yourself. You can reinvent yourself with each change in society, live so many different lives, and experience everything that's on offer. Who could resist?

Even in my relatively short life, I've seen the world change. When I grew up, there were no computers, and look at us today. Personally, I

can't imagine not having a computer. Plane travel has become common day. Most young people have never seen a rotary phone or used a typewriter. Imagine the changes a vampire would see: to go from a horse-drawn carriage to an automobile to a plane.

But this intimate look into history as a vampire isn't all that attracts me to this creature. We probably all remember our first love. Who thought it would last forever? (\*raises hand\*) Yet, it didn't last. But then later, we find our one true love and we think how could I have wasted all these years? I met my husband when I was already in my mid-thirties. Now we only have a relatively short time left. Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that we have eternity with our love, with our soul mate? A vampire has that. When he finds his true love he can say "I love you for eternity." And mean it.

So maybe that's what our fascination with vampires (or at least mine) is all about: our fear of mortality, and our wish to love and be loved for eternity.

And that's why I write vampire romances: my characters will live and love forever.

I currently have two vampire series published: *Scanguards Vampires* (8 books so far, book 8 1/2 being released on April 8, 2014), and *Venice Vampyr* (4 novellas so far).

<http://www.tinawritesromance.com>

# INTRODUCTION TO POINT OF VIEW

by **Iola Goulton**



One of the most important aspects of writing a novel is getting the point of view (POV) correct, and it is one of the major issues for many first-time authors. Sol Stein considers that point of view “is possibly the most mismanaged aspect of the writer’s craft”. The basic approaches are:

- ✦ First person
- ✦ Second person
- ✦ Third person
- ✦ Omniscient (which some writers see as a type of third person).

This post will look at first person and second person point of view, with examples that break several of the rules of modern fiction but are written purely to illustrate the different points of view:

## FIRST PERSON

First person uses ‘I’ as the personal pronoun, taking the reader inside the mind of one particular character, able only to think, see and experience from the viewpoint of this one character:

*I sit waiting, waiting, waiting. These might be the Royal quarters, as befits my station as Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King Henry VIII, God rest his soul, but it is still the Tower of London. It was still a prison. Despite the wall hangings, a warm fire and the fine food, I still sat*

*there, waiting upon the pleasure of the Queen, Mary, my half-sister and now my enemy.*

First-person point of view gives narrative intimacy, the feeling that they are getting to know this character’s deepest thoughts and emotions. In *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*, Browne and King say:

In order to succeed in the first-person point of view, you have to create a character strong enough and interesting enough to keep your readers going for an entire novel, yet not so eccentric or bizarre that your readers feel trapped inside his or her head. Also, what you gain in intimacy in first person, you lose in perspective [and] your readers get to know only one character directly.

Note that some readers don’t like reading novels written from the first person point of view and some publishers won’t accept first person manuscripts, so choosing this option might limit your market.

## SECOND PERSON

Second person uses ‘you’ and ‘your’, putting the reader inside the story:

*You sit waiting, waiting, waiting. These might*

# INTRODUCTION TO POINT OF VIEW

by **Iola Goulton** continued from page 14



*be the Royal quarters, as befits your station as Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King Henry VIII, God rest his soul, but this is still the Tower of London. It is still a prison. Despite the wall hangings, a warm fire and the fine food, you are still sitting here, waiting upon the pleasure of the Queen, Mary, your half-sister and now your enemy.*

This feels contrived. You are not Princess Elizabeth, so are you really going to sit through a 90,000 word novel and pretend that you are? Second person works for instructional non-fiction, and is the mainstay of ‘choose-your-own-adventure’ books, but it is not considered appropriate for novel-length fiction. In the words of Newman and Mittlemark (authors of the tongue-in-cheek *How Not to Write a Novel*):

Certain late twentieth-century novelists used the second person singular successfully—notably Italo Calvino in *If on a Winter's Night a Traveler* and Jay McInerney in *Bright Lights, Big City*. But there it ended. In fact, it was named the “second person” when McInerney became the second person to get away with it and it became clear he would also be the last. Very occasionally, an editor sees past the contrivance and buys such a book—on the condition that the author revise it completely into a traditional third-person narrative.

## Next month:

I'll look at two misused points of view: third person unlimited and outer limited (also known as omniscient and cinematic).

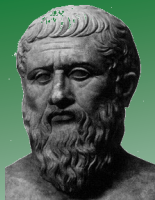
By Iola Goulton

*This article has previously been published on my website, [www.christianediting.co.nz](http://www.christianediting.co.nz), where I post weekly articles on writing craft, editing, publishing or marketing. I provide freelance content editing, copyediting and proofreading services for writers, specialising in adult and young adult Christian fiction. Most of my articles are applicable to all genres.*

*I hold a Bachelor of Commerce degree in marketing and have twenty years' experience in human resources, including writing and editing a company newsletter, developing a government website, contributing three chapters to a professional text, and writing and proofreading more client reports than I can count. I*

*have always loved, and I read and review around 150 Christian books each year on my blog [www.christianreads.blogspot.com](http://www.christianreads.blogspot.com).*

*Editing combines my professional background and personal interests.*



## At the touch of love everyone becomes a poet." - Plato

Retrieved from <http://voices.yahoo.com/50-famous-love-quotes-romantic-sayings-falling-7498056.html>

"Lost opportunities, lost possibilities, feelings we can never get back. That's part of what it means to be alive. But inside our heads - at least that's where I imagine it - there's a little room where we store those memories. A room like the stacks in this library. And to understand the workings of our own heart we have to keep on making new reference cards. We have to dust things off every once in awhile, let in fresh air, change the water in the flower vases. In other words, you'll live forever in your own private library."

— Haruki Murakami, *Kafka on the Shore* Retrieved from: <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/misadventures>

### CLASSIFIED ADS

We are happy to place short classified ads in H2H for services that could be useful to writers. The price for these will be \$20.

Note that the placing for these will be preceded by a disclaimer stating the RWNZ is only providing the placing, but does not in any way endorse the product/service.

Please contact me by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month if you wish to advertise.

[marjan@marjan.co.nz](mailto:marjan@marjan.co.nz)

*Any news about writers, book launches, courses in your area??*

Are there any courses, writer's presentations, book launches or similar coming up in your area? Please send us the information or links – we may be able to inspire other RWNZ groups to piggy back on to them and offer opportunities in other regions. Let us know : [marjan@marjan.co.nz](mailto:marjan@marjan.co.nz)

*Welcome to New Members*



### Some Web Links

If you have some Web Links to share  
—please email to [marjan@marjan.co.nz](mailto:marjan@marjan.co.nz)

### Conference: Casino Royale 2014

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/2014-Conference/>

#### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

<http://www.romancewriters.co.nz/2014-Conference/speaker-biographies/>

### EMAIL IN YOUR FAVOURITE 'ROMANCE QUOTES'

FOR THE H2H NEWSLETTER

Remember to also send in the Author and Website Address for referencing to

[marjan@marjan.co.nz](mailto:marjan@marjan.co.nz)

## RWNZ News Around the Regions

*Keeping in touch with each other*

**Word Count:** The intention of this column is more to notify than have a regional narrative. Reports should not exceed a word count of 150 words. If your region has done unusual or something very interesting that you want to share, then we'd like to hear about it in a separate report, which can be featured on its own. Read the News Around the Regions on page 21.



# H2H MARKETS FOR MARCH

## 1. Forbidden Lust

Independent e-book and print publisher

**Seeking:** stories and novels erotica the editors seek 'interesting, risky, fun writing regardless of content.'

**Length:** the novelette of 10,000 to 20,000 words, novellas of 20,000 to 50,000 words and novels over 50,000 words. Check out the website for details and the guidelines.

**Payment:** For novels the royalties are paid quarterly, and flat rates are paid on the day of publication. All payments are made through Paypal. For general submissions 'we pay 50% net royalties on paperback and e-books for the life of the copyright.' For anthology submissions 'we pay a flat rate of .0075 per word for three year exclusive rights.'

### Forbidden Lust anthologies

Current anthology calls are for stories between **2,500 and 10,000 words.**

'Blessed' is an anthology about romance and erotica with religious tones. Mix passion with what is considered sacred. The **deadline is May 1, 2014.**

**'Made for Me', with a June 1 deadline, is an** anthology of stories about creators falling in love with their creations.

**Details: Forbidden Lust, website:** <http://www.forbidden-lust.com>;  
**guidelines:** <http://www.forbidden-lust.com/write-for-us.html>;  
**email subs:** [submissions@forbidden-lust.com](mailto:submissions@forbidden-lust.com)

## 2. Tirgearr Publishing

Irish Indie Press

Publishing e and print books in all genres.

**Seeking** Romance with an HEA or HFN endings. Check submission guidelines carefully.

**Length** novellettes – 10,000 to 20,000 words, novellas, 20,000 to 50,000 words, novels, 50,000 to 95,000, and super-novels, 95,000 plus.

### Payment

Discussed under contract

**Details: website:** [www.tirgearrpublishing.com](http://www.tirgearrpublishing.com)  
**Email:** [info@tirgearrpublishing.com](mailto:info@tirgearrpublishing.com)

## 3. Anaiah Press

Christian e-book then print publisher

**Seeking** YA, and Christian Romance.

Also expect anthology calls regularly from this new publisher

**Length** Word counts range from 20,000 to 110,000, but please check each imprint for the specifics.

**Payment** Payment and Rights for the novels are discussed under contract but are well within the norms. Anthology payments vary according to the type of anthology.

**Details: Anaiah Press website:** <http://www.anaiahpress.com>;

**guidelines:** <http://www.anaiahpress.com/submissions.html>;

**email to:** [submissions@anaiahpress.com](mailto:submissions@anaiahpress.com);

**imprints page:** <http://www.anaiahpress.com/imprints.html>;

**anthology queries to:** Nate Kurant at

[nkurant@anaiahpress.com](mailto:nkurant@anaiahpress.com)

## 4. James Ward Kirk Publishing

American Small Press e-publishing and print

**Seeking** speculative genre fiction including romance elements and stories for anthologies

**Length** check the guidelines for each imprint

**Payment** Anthologies editors' choice only, novels under contract.

**Details: website:** <http://jwkfiction.com>;

**email subs to:** [jameswardkirk@gmail.com](mailto:jameswardkirk@gmail.com);

**guidelines:** <http://jwkfiction.com/index.php/opsb>

## 5. Ghostwoods Books

UK Press publishing e-books

One of the new author friendly publishers

**Seeking Currently the call is for Romance and Romantic Suspense.**

**Length** 60,000 and 90,000 words

**Payment** Payment is 50 % and the contract has an opt out clause

**Details:** Ghostwoods Books, website: <http://www.gwdbooks.com>; submit at the website using their online submissions

# INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

by Tracey Alvarez

## Music City Romance Writers Pitch Contest

Deadline: April 15th, 2014

Enter: Enter 200 word max. This would be the back cover copy or pitch letter blurb.

Fee: US\$15

More Info: <http://www.rwa.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1252>

## The Catherine 2014 (Toronto Romance Writers)

Deadline: Entries must be received by April 30, 2014, 11:59 pm EST

Eligibility: Open to ALL unpublished writers (you do not have to be a member of RWA) and Published writers who are not eligible for RWA PAN status by date of entry (you must be a member of RWA).

Enter: No more than 7500 words, including the synopsis.

Fee: US\$25-30

More Info: <http://torontoromancewriters.com/contest/>

## Coffee and Cream publishing 2014 Spring Romance Short Story Contest

Deadline: April 30th, 2014

Theme: Interracial and Multicultural Romance.

Enter: Completed manuscripts should be between 7,000 and 20,000 word count and can not be part of an anthology, duet, combined, or omnibus publication.

Fee: Free to enter

More Info: <http://www.coffeeandcreampublishing.com/guidelines>

## The Valerie Parv Award 2014

Deadline: 2 May 2014, or when contest fills.

Eligibility: Open to RWAustralia members and non-members; unpublished writers only

Enter: First 10,000 words (max) + 1000 word (max) synopsis of your unpublished romance/romantic elements novel (any length 40K+) by email only.

More Info: <http://www.romanceaustralia.com/p/110/Valerie-Parv-Award>

# ABOUT Us

We are a non-profit organisation founded in September 1990 by Jean Drew and ten other enthusiastic writers in Auckland, New Zealand, to provide support and professional development to Romance writers. Since then Romance Writers of New Zealand (RWNZ) has flourished and has now grown to around 300 members from throughout New Zealand, Australia, USA, UK and South Africa.

Whether a member's ambition is to become an internationally published author or purely to obtain the satisfaction of having written a good story, RWNZ offers a positive and supportive community that shares a love of Romance fiction.

We strive to share and broaden our collective knowledge of excellence so members can become the best writers they can be and create the best crafted books they can write. We do this through online loops and [workshops](#); an [annual Conference](#) that offers craft development and networking opportunities with agents and editors; [competitions](#) and regular regional meetings. To read the full range of [member benefits](#), [click here](#).

RWNZ has a range of members from internationally published, best-selling authors, aspiring writers through to those purely writing for their own pleasure. Our membership contains like-minded women and men of all ages who provide encouragement and knowledge from their own writing journeys. If you'd like to [join us](#), [click here](#) – new members are always welcome.

## Mission Statement

Romance Writers of New Zealand Inc. is dedicated to promoting excellence in romance writing and the romance genre, helping writers become published and establish careers by providing networking, support, information and resources.

# RWNZ News Around the Regions

*Keeping in touch with each other.*

## Auckland

We had 26 attendees and a good few laughs with our guest speaker for our March meeting; Jackie Coates who writes as Jackie Ashendon revealed to us how to and more importantly *why* we write sex scenes.

We have a qualified counsellor to talk to us at our 5th April meeting. Auckland Chapter member Adrienne Smith's husband is also a writer. One of the things he uses in his writing is about subconscious issues from your past and how they can affect you in later life. How your parents and others can say things that you don't even realise are causing problems and can unconsciously steer your characters' actions. This should help us considerably in developing characters and conflict.

As always, our meeting venue is the Three Kings Tennis Pavilion from 12.30 till 3.00 p.m. Please bring a gold coin donation, change for the raffles and a plate to share.

Happy writing everyone, Pamela. [www.pamelagervai.com](http://www.pamelagervai.com) <<http://www.pamelagervai.com>> <http://buff.ly/VZDXcy> (Writer's Page)

## C2C (Central North Island Coast to Coast)

A sunny day, great food and excellent company. We got all of that, and more, on Saturday.

Members discussed 'The Twelve Stages of Intimacy', basic stepping stones for our romances, as our speaker Deryn Pittar informed us, along with the emotions each one provokes. We were provided with clues and many guesses. Later, we realised there were probably more stages than the twelve listed. Members then wrote paragraphs using some of the stages.

It was great to meet Bernadette Daube, who was attending her first meeting. As always, it was a pleasure catching up with C2C friends. Seeing where everyone is at with their writing is a special favourite of mine and as ever there are many romances in varying stages of completion. The clutter was hidden, floor vacced and oven cleaned in honour of this meeting so... with a clean house and inspiration, it's time for me to write.

## Wellington/Kapiti

Our March meeting took place at the Paraparaumu Library meeting room, and the colourful art exhibition in the adjacent foyer featured some of our Joan O'Dea's work.

We talked. What was the in-depth knowledge each of us had that could be helpful for others in the group who were researching things? We found we had a New Zealand historian, someone who'd trained as a police officer, an equine specialist, a member with movie production experience, two who knew a heap about British medieval history and castles, a long-time IT guru, a very keen gardener, one member who travelled so much that her knowledge of airport protocols would be really handy...you get the idea? We can make good use of all of that. Our April Meeting will be at 1 pm, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, somewhere in Wellington. We'll email members with the details. Kris Pearson.

## Christchurch

We met at South Library on March 9th. There was a lot of discussion about the evolving publishing market this month, with interest in the hybrid writer and self-publishing. We are all looking forward to finding out more at the Conference this year. Marketing is something that has popped up a few times now and we are keen to hear from any members who might be able to lend their expertise in websites, Twitter, blogging etc. Looking ahead, we have committed to coming up with some ideas about creating a business plan for our writing for the next 12 months. The next meeting is at the Upper Riccarton Library on the 6th April from 10-12 – sorry but the café is closed on Sundays, so bring your own coffees along. Bring along the first few pages of your writing, and a few ideas or the framework for a business plan.

## Nelson

Our March meeting on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> (International Women's Day!) was at the end of a very busy week for our group. On the Wednesday our own LaVerne Clark talked about 'Breaking into the American market' and her journey there at the Writers Lunch at Prince Albert's. This monthly event is organised by NZSA Top of the South Branch and very popular.

Friday night saw several of us enjoying (also our own) Wendy Scott's talk about self-publishing at another local pub – The Stables. At our Saturday meeting we welcomed writer & journalist Ro Cambridge, who talked about her journey to get where she is today. Ro is as fun to listen to as her columns in the Nelson Mail. She claimed she'd never written romance, but had tweaked her talk to suit us well.

And come Sunday morning we went to a workshop where, again, Wendy showed us how to promote ourselves as writers, whether we will try to be published 'traditionally' or do it ourselves. Wendy showed us all tools to use to create a profile of our own and make it work for us.

At our meeting we decided to have a retreat weekend in March/April and also in December. This retreat will be in a cottage in Motueka Valley that Karen has found suitable for our needs. We all look forward to some serious writing far from 'the maddening crowds'.

Annika reported that we already have four submissions to our short story competition and a lot of requests for the entry form, so it looks good. We finished with a short exercise in the first stage of intimacy – Eye to Body, the moment hero meets heroine (or vice versa) for the first time – before we indulged in double chocolate peach slices with our cuppa.



## REGIONAL CONVENORS

### Auckland:

**Pamela Gervai**

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

### Central North (C2C):

**Lizzi Tremayne**

**Deryn Pittar**

email: [nztoothvet@bmevc.co.nz](mailto:nztoothvet@bmevc.co.nz)  
[deryn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:deryn@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)

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

### **Wait there is more...**

Unfortunately I have to clear some time in my life and H2H will be needing another editor in May to do the June issue and onward.

Whoever takes it on will be handheld through the first month or two. It's not difficult but this is a time of my life when too much of it is on a collision course.

If you think you'd like to do it contact Leeann Morgan [morgan.leeann@clear.net.nz](mailto:morgan.leeann@clear.net.nz)

I am happy to chat with whoever picks it up. I'll wait for Leeann to follow up first.

It's been great, I have had wonderful support from contributors, proofreaders and Jaci the desk top publisher whizz extraordinaire, but now I have to sort other stuff.

Thank you , you're a great bunch.

Yours via the pen ~ Marjan

### **Submissions**

We love getting the contributions but can I request the following:

- ♥ All contributions should reach me no later than the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month**
- ♥ All should be in a Word document, Arial 11 font
- ♥ No indentations, or fancy headings

President	Leeann Morgan <a href="mailto:morgan.leeann@clear.co.nz">morgan.leeann@clear.co.nz</a>
Vice-President	Kamy Chetty <a href="mailto:kamychetty@yahoo.com">kamychetty@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Kirsten Winter <a href="mailto:kirsten@compleatadmin.co.nz">kirsten@compleatadmin.co.nz</a>
Immediate Past President	Giovanna Lee <a href="mailto:giovannaalee@yahoo.com">giovannaalee@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Carol Silva <a href="mailto:carolsilva540@gmail.com">carolsilva540@gmail.com</a>
Founder	Jean Drew (RWNZ founded 1990)
Publicity Officer	Sue Brebner <a href="mailto:brebfox@slingshot.co.nz">brebfox@slingshot.co.nz</a>

Website	Jo Fereday
Coordinator	<a href="mailto:hillcrestgarden@hotmail.co.nz">hillcrestgarden@hotmail.co.nz</a>
Membership Secretary	Kris Pearson <a href="mailto:Kris.p@paradise.net.nz">Kris.p@paradise.net.nz</a>
Principal Contests Coordinator	Kamy Chetty <a href="mailto:kamychetty@yahoo.com">kamychetty@yahoo.com</a>
Judging Enquiries	Kamy Chetty <a href="mailto:kamychetty@yahoo.com">kamychetty@yahoo.com</a>
H2H Contents	Marjan Van Waardenberg <a href="mailto:marjan@marjan.co.nz">marjan@marjan.co.nz</a>
	Jaci Petherick <a href="mailto:jaculinpetherick@yahoo.com">jaculinpetherick@yahoo.com</a>
H2H Proofreading	Lizzie Tremayne <a href="mailto:nztoothvet@bmevc.co.nz">nztoothvet@bmevc.co.nz</a>
	Bernice Greenham

### **Contact Details:**

Romance Writers of New Zealand, Inc  
PO Box 10264, Dominion Road, Auckland.

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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)