.00am – 5.00pm	Registration: Level 3 foyer					
.00am – 4.00pm	Pitching room: Hobart room					
.15am – 11am	OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS - Workshops attract and additional fee to	attend and pre-registration is required.				
	MELBOURNE ROOM	PERTH ROOM	BRISBANE ROOM			
	Moderator: Dani McLean	Moderator: Jem McCusker	Moderator: Louisa West			
	12 months to quit	Anatomy of a character	Romancing the media			
	Steffanie Holmes	Rachel Bailey	Penny Carroll & Maya Linnell			
	Are you writing and publishing like mad but feel like you aren't making progress? Are you struggling to find ways to market your books? Do you do ALL THE THINGS but aren't seeing the success you crave? Join romance author Steff Holmes as she shows you how to create the plan, the tools, and the mindset to rock your writing dreams. In the morning, Steff will take you on a journey through the current world of publishing, showing you the strategies she uses and teaches to help authors sell more books, turn readers into superfans, and have fun doing it. We'll cover 7 key areas: Part 1: What does success look like to you?; Part 2: Tropes, trends, reader expectations; Part 3: Writing for your future superfans. Part 4: Packaging your words to sell; Part 5: Growing your readership;	We'll deep dive into character creation and change the way you approach writing your characters. From basics like backstory, dreams, fears, and voice, right through to advanced content, like character systems and an easy to apply reader engagement model, this workshop will take your characters to the next level. Rachel will provide a framework that will have readers cheering for your characters - and lining up for your next book.	This lively workshop will demystify the world of med outreach for authors, both indie and trad-pubbed. We get you set up with the basics, such as preparing a med release; the dos and don'ts of reaching out t editors/journos; targeting the right outlets for your boo and finding multiple angles in your story; and essentia for your media toolbox (good headphones, Zoo backdrop etc). Then we'll delve into the intervie process (for print, radio and TV) - what to expect ar how to manage nerves; how to deal with sticl questions and key points for encouraging romance positive messaging; plus how to be your publicist's be wingman (for trad-pubbed authors). The presentation			
	Part 6: Leveling up your career; Part 7: Looking after yourself. In the afternoon, we'll take everything we've just talked about and apply it to creating your own personal 12-month author strategy. This document will guide you over the next twelve months – it covers your writing, research, publishing, and marketing plan. Steff will share with you her own strategy documents and give you tons of examples and guidance to create a document that will not on. In the afternoon session, I will walk you through creating your own strategy for the next twelve months – with the goal of quitting your day job or levelling up your career. This will build on the techniques and concepts you learned in the morning sessions. We'll define your goals, look at what assets and strengths you already have, assess your biggest hurdles and the areas where you feel overwhelmed or		will include pre-recorded tips from industry insider including book publicists and media professionals. There will also be an opportunity for one or two willing participants to engage in a mock media interview to sharpen their skills, and we can ask a couple of participants to submit their media release ahead of the workshop to show them a practical before-and-after polish to create an attention-grabbing release. Participants will leave with a cheat sheet for answering questions about the romance genre to ensure they have the tools to positively portray romance stories in the media.			
	uncertain, and build a plan you can get excited about. You'll leave this session with a solid plan and buzzing with all the possibilities!					

Level 3 Foyer

Perth Room

	FF	RIDAY 11 AUGUST 2023
11.30am – 1.00pm	MELBOURNE ROOM	PERTH ROOM
	Moderator: Dani McLean	Moderator: Jem McCusker
	12 months to quit	Anatomy of a character
	Cont.	Cont.
1.00pm – 2.00pm	LUNCH: Level 3 foyer – seating available in the Brisbane room	l de la companya de l
2.00pm – 3.00pm	MELBOURNE ROOM	PERTH ROOM
	Moderator: Dani McLean	Moderator: Listya Elliott
	12 months to quit <i>Cont.</i>	Revisions: how to tackle them without the tears and tantrums <i>Pippa Roscoe</i> Though revisions are integral to the writing process they can often cause the most upset. But it doesn't have to be that way! In this workshop we'll explore what they are, why we find them so hard and offer practical ways of how to get them done. You'll leave ready to tackle your revisions with a confidence and excitement that will not only make your manuscripts better but also your working relationship with your editor/publisher.
3.00pm - 3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA: Level 3 foyer	
3.30pm – 5.00pm	MELBOURNE ROOM	PERTH ROOM
sisopin sisopin	Moderator: Dani McLean	Moderator: Listya Elliott
	12 months to quit <i>Cont.</i>	Revisions: how to tackle them without the tears and tantrums Cont.
6.00pm - 6.30pm	Newbies welcome with chat by Victoria Purman: Brisbane roc	im
6.30pm - 9.30pm	Draft to Digital All That Glitters Cocktail party: Sydney room a	nd <mark>Perth room</mark>

			SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2	023				
7.30am – 5.00pm	Registration: Level 3 foyer							
7.30am – 5.00pm	Harlequin	Writers room: Canberra room						
9.00am – 4.00pm	Pitching ro	om: Hobart room						
8.30am – 11.15am		SESSION: Wentworth Ballroom r: Rachael Johns						
	8.30am Conference welcome & Acknowledgement of Country							
	8.45am	Official launch – Sweet Treats Lo	ollipops and Spicy Bites Silk RWAus anthologie	S				
	9.15am	Don't quit before the miracle (<i>a Steffanie Holmes</i>	and other things I've learned about publishin	g romance)				
	10.00am	Mini break: Level 3 foyer						
	10.15am	Fresh off the press (what's hot, what's not, and what will be)						
11.15am - 11.45am	MORNING	TEA: Level 3 foyer						
11.45am – 12.45pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS							
	PERTH ROOM Craft – Genre		SYDNEY ROOM Craft – Research	MELBOURNE ROOM Craft – Process	BRISBANE ROOM Business / Tech			
	Moderator: Alison Stuart		Moderator: Elly Rosen	Moderator: Catherine Guerds	Moderator: Cathryn Hein			
		ssing of a heroine OR How easy is it to rip a bodice?	Unmasking death Tracey Rosen	Be your own developmental editor Amanda Ashby	10 tricks & traps of publishing contracts			
	C The worksh clothing of Victorian underwear benefit from made by ex Lady Brony some salac ready for t the audien possible to	Ross, Bronwyn Parry, Beverley Dakley & Elizabeth Rolls hop of 60 minutes will present the f the periods from Regency to including evening, day and or lack of it. Participants will m seeing and feeling the costumes experts, the Lady Beverley and the vyn. Lady Whistledown will share ious gossip while the heroines get their meeting with the hero, and nee will explore whether it is rip a bodice.	Death is a rarely discussed part of our reality, and representations in literature and on the screen can be done well, but are often poorly represented in both the practical considerations and the emotional reactions. Participants will not only hear real stories, we will also look at examples in both film and literature across a variety of genres and look at what works, what doesn't and where it falls down.	Congratulations, you've finished the first draft of your manuscript, but what now? A lot of advice simply tells aspiring authors to keep polishing it until it gleams. But what does that mean? Learning how to go through a first draft with a 'big picture' developmental eye is an important part of every author's toolbox, so we'll be looking at plot, character development and how to make scenes really pop on the page!	Alex Adsett Ten vital things to consider before you sign on the dotted line of a publishing contract. What rights are you actually giving away? Are you getting a fair royalty? Will you ever get your rights back? What does a "normal" publishing contract look like anyway? Whether you're an established or emerging author, come along to hear agent and consultant Alex Adsett discuss some of the sneakier things in publishing contracts, and how to avoid them.			
12.45pm – 13.45pm		vel 3 foyer – seating available in t						
13.15pm – 13.35pm	Moderato Amy Andre		sh burn out : Sydney room ks about the long reach of burn out and how t	o both avoid and survive it.				

		SATURDAY 12 AUGUS1					
13.45pm – 2.45pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS						
	PERTH ROOM	SYDNEY ROOM	MELBOURNE ROOM	BRISBANE ROOM			
	Craft – Genre	Craft – Research	Craft – Process	Business / Tech			
	Moderator: Jacinta Peachy	Moderator: Rachel Bailey	Moderator: Jan MacNally	Moderator: Sarah Begg			
	Turning to crime	The questions of disability	Taming the voices: how to write in	From PDF to MP3: audiobooks made			
	Alison Stuart	representation	multiple point of view	easy			
	In this workshop, Alison will introduce	Isla Farr	Cassie Hamer	Jodie Harris			
	participants to the elements of writing a	In this workshop we will work together to	Writing a novel from multiple points of view	This workshop will take an in-depth loo			
	crime/mystery series or stand alone book	understand the ways disability can and	is a popular method of storytelling, but is it	into the audiobook industry and productio			
	incorporating romantic elements.	have been represented. Through looking at	right for your story? In this one hour	process, with a Q&A to finish.			
	Alison will discuss the importance of world-	multiple examples and our own	workshop, we examine the pros and cons of	From your initial decision to casting th			
	building and character development and	experiences, we will find new nuanced and	writing from different character viewpoints	perfect voice, what your role is in th			
	arcs for your key players. She will introduce	realistic ways of representing disability that	and how this method can be applied to your	production process and on to productio			
	the concept of a series arc and plot beats in	are accurate and supportive.	story. Through tips, tricks and exercises,	and distribution options available from			
	planning your book/series and how to	My goal is to show you that representing	you'll understand how multi-POV affects	Australia, you'll gain a deepe			
	merge the elements of a crime and mystery	disability doesn't have to be daunting nor	structure and how to ensure readers enjoy	understanding of what can often be			
	story with those of a romance.	the pinnacle of your work by busting	each narrative arc equally while	daunting process and enable you to choos			
		stereotypes and understanding our own	maintaining a page-turning pace.	a way forward into audio that is right fo			
		perceptions of disability.		you.			
L4.45pm – 3.15pm	AFTERNOON TEA: Level 3 foyer		·				
3.15pm – 4.15pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS						
	PERTH ROOM	SYDNEY ROOM	MELBOURNE ROOM	BRISBANE ROOM			
	Craft – Genre	Craft – Research	Craft – Process	Business / Tech			
	Moderator: Louisa West	Moderator: Ella Sweetland	Moderator: Deb Deasey	Moderator: Emily Madden			
	Writing reverse harem for fun and money	World building through action	How do you get published?	Author website essentials			
	Steffanie Holmes	Jo Riccioni	Victoria Purman, Jo Dixon & Renae Black	Michelle Barraclough			
	In a reverse harem or whychoose romance	This one-hour workshop originates from	Sponsored by Harlequin	Creating an author website can b			
	novel, our lucky heroine has three or more	the famous directive of Elmore Leonard to	And if your book does land a publishing	daunting. Even when you've finally take			
	love interests, and she doesn't have to	"leave out the parts readers tend to skip".	deal, how can you contribute to its success?	the plunge, knowing whether you've ticke			
	choose between them! Come along and get	With that in mind, we will focus on the	Authors Victoria Purman, Jo Dixon and	all the boxes on creating a beautiful bu			
	the scoop from an Amazon top-20 reverse	opening chapter of your work-in-progress,	Renae Black ask HQ and Escape Publishing	fully functional website can be equal			
	harem author on what readers expect from	analyzing how we can immediately	and Marketing the tough questions you	tricky.			
	a whychoose story, what the current	establish world-building through character,	always wanted answered.	In this session, Michelle Barraclough w			
	market looks like, the types of books	action and dialogue, rather than lengthy	,	give you practical tips on how to ge			
	readers are excited about, and how to	paragraphs of scene-setting and landscape.		started, how to create your brand (colour			
	package and market your RH books to sell	The aim is to seize the attention of readers		fonts, all the fun stuff!), what to include o			
	in 2023.	and keep them engrossed. Suitable for		each page, ideas for blogging ar			
		beginner or developed writers.		newsletters, plus a few handy resources.			
	LCPTOIA+ Notworking Event: Prisbane ree	m					
	LGBTQIA+ Networking Event: Brisbane room If you're lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, asexual plus! Or if you're someone who advocates for the equal treatment for all people regardless of their sex, sexualit						
4.30pm – 5.30pm	gender identity or relationships, join the RWA Diversity team at this networking event. There's no RWA LGBTQIA+ community without you! LGBTQIA+ delegates and allies are invited to chat						
	chill with new writing friends. Discuss your writing journey, the publishing industry, and share ideas about what RWAus can do to support you.						
	chill with new writing frends. Discuss your write						
7pm – 11.45pm	Harleguin Gala Awards Dinner: Wentworth						

Sydney Room

Perth Room

Brisbane Room

Canberra Room

Hobart Room

Room Key

Wentworth Ballroom

Level 3 Foyer

Melbourne Room

		SUNDAY 13 AUGU	JST 2023			
7.30am – 4.00pm	Registration: Level 3 foyer					
7.30am – 2.10pm						
9.00am – 2.00pm						
8.30am – 9.30am	CONCURRENT SESSIONS					
	PERTH ROOM	SYDNEY ROOM	MELBOURNE ROOM	BRISBANE ROOM		
	Craft – Genre	Craft – Research	Craft – Process	Business / Tech		
	Moderator: Sarah Begg	Moderator: Catherine Guerds	Moderator: Penelope Janu	Moderator: Louisa Duval		
	How to stand out in a crowd	Epistolary Novels - hard	D is for Dialogue	Author newsletters: the humble star of the		
	(RomCom edition)	to say, but fun to write	Victoria Purman	marketing mix		
	Stefanie London	Alison Reynolds	This workshop will helpyou understand the	Megan Mayfair		
	The publishing industry is more crowded	Want to know all about your characters	role of dialogue in a novel and give you the	Newsletters are an efficient and cost-effective		
	than ever. Finding readers, capturing the	- write an epistolary novels. They are	tools to sharpen it so your characters sound	marketing strategy for authors. While they may		
	attention of casual Amazon browsers or	easy and enticing to read. Many of us fell	like real people having real conversations.	seem old-fashioned or dare I say *boring*, a		
	snagging an agent or publishing contract	in love with the easy charm of Helen	You'll come away with a greater	solid mailing list, consistent delivery and		
	requires a standout story, strong voice and	Fielding's Bridget Jones's Diary.	understanding of how dialogue can be used	relevant content helps sell books and drive		
	high-quality writing. This workshop will	Who doesn't enjoy the delicious	to reveal character, deepen conflict, move	reader loyalty. We'll dive into the latest		
	tocucing on all the elements that will I diary or letters without guilt? Want your I		your story forward and provide the subtext	industry email marketing trends, discuss		
	help your story grab attention and build a	readers to read between the lines? Why	readers love.	strategies to improve engagement and create your own customisable content calendar to		
	loyal and hungry readership, with specific examples from one of romance's current hottest sub-genres; romantic comedy.			create gorgeous, yet 'set-and-forget'		
				newsletters to free up your time to focus on		
				what's really important: writing.		
9.30am – 9.40am	Movement between rooms			the of confirm por carter three 8.		
9.40am – 10.40am	CONCURRENT SESSIONS					
	PERTH ROOM	SYDNEY ROOM	MELBOURNE ROOM	BRISBANE ROOM		
	Craft – Genre	Craft – Research	Craft – Process	Business / Tech		
	Moderator: Rachael Johns	Moderator: Ella Sweetland	Moderator: Louisa Duval	Moderator: Louisa West		
	Dogs, cats, horses & chooks: writing	We're all indi-viduals	Weaving personal stories and experience	Level up your Tik Tok game		
	animals	Monique McDonell & Sasha Cottman	into entertaining and romantic fiction	Ali Mulford & Anne Kemp		
	Rachel Bailey	With well over 100 titles between them	Saman Shad & Emma Grey	Unleash your TikTok creativity and amplify your		
	Animal characters abound in the romance	the panellists will discuss their differing	Sponsored by Penguin Random House	impact as an author! Join the Sustainable		
	and women's fiction genres: dogs, cats,	approaches to indie publishing. The	Join Saman Shad, debut author of THE	Socials dream team, A.K. Mulford and Anne		
	birds, horses, goats, as well as more	panel will demonstrate that there is not	MATCHMAKER and novelist Emma Grey,	Kemp, as they reveal secrets for consistently		
	unusual animals. When the animal	a one-size fits all approach to indie	author of THE LAST LOVE NOTE, as they	building a readership and selling books through		
	character is written well, readers have a	publishing but that everyone can find a	discuss the joys and complexities of weaving	TikTok without going viral or burning out.		
	strong emotional response, leading to the	way to make it work for them.	their lived experiences into entertaining (and	Discover how to post authentically, attract the		
	rule of thumb for romance writers, "Don't	The panellists have differing approaches	seven comedic!) romantic fiction. The discussion will cover Emma's experience	right audience, boost engagement, and find balance between author life and content		
1	kill the dog!" Backed by Pachel's Ubit		a seassion will cover childs experience	summer serveen aunor me and content		
	kill the dog!" Backed by Rachel's PhD research this workshop will break down	and have built careers based on a variety	writing her first adult novel in the wake of her	creation Whether you're an intermediate or		
	research, this workshop will break down	of criteria from time commitments,	writing her first adult novel in the wake of her husband's death and Saman's experience as	creation. Whether you're an intermediate or advanced user, this workshop has something		
	research, this workshop will break down the creation of animal characters so you	of criteria from time commitments, budget and sub-genre which they will	husband's death and Saman's experience as	advanced user, this workshop has something		
	research, this workshop will break down	of criteria from time commitments,	-			

Room Key	Wentworth Ballroom	Level 3 Foyer	Melbourne Room	Sydney Room	Perth Room	Brisbane Room	Canberra Room	Hobart Room

10.40am – 11.10am	MORNING TEA: Level 3 foyer							
11.10am – 12.10pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS							
	PERTH ROOM Craft – Genre	SYDNEY ROOM Craft – Research	MELBOURNE ROOM Craft - Process	BRISBANE ROOM Business / Tech				
	Moderator: Jacinta Peachey	Moderator: Lauren McKellar	Moderator: Gillian Clive	Moderator: Valerie Miller				
	Roadmap to rural Rachael Donovan: Publisher	Stuck, blocked, or burned out? Becca Syme	Surprise and delight your readers Anne Gracie	Creating anthologies Ebony McKenna				
	Janet Gover: Author Penelope Janu: Author Sponsored by Harlequin Join our Harlequin sponsored panel featuring	Are you stuck in your writing? Struggle with writer's block? Afraid you're burned out? This is the workshop for you.	Making your story fresh and a little different, while still meeting readers' expectations, is crucial to publishing success. A good surprise, cleverly planted	Thinking of running or joining a anthology? Ebony McKenna knows he way around box sets of books.				
	bestselling authors and publishing team members as they deconstruct the hallmarks of rural romance. With publisher, Rachael Donovan and authors TBC.	There are lots of reasons we might not be writing, and some of them are even about another b-word beneficial. So come to this talk and learn, when might not-writing be good for me? And what can I do to fix it if it's not?	can delight readers and lift a book out of	This workshop will get you started on you next anthology collaboration, with clea goal setting and expectatio management. Whether short stories novellas or full novels, this workshop wi set you on the path to success.				
12.10pm – 1.10pm								
1.10pm – 2.10pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS							
	PERTH ROOM Craft – Genre	SYDNEY ROOM Craft – Research	MELBOURNE ROOM Craft – Process	BRISBANE ROOM Business / Tech				
	Moderator: Jem McCusker	Moderator: Catherine Guerds	Moderator: Nicole Flockton	Moderator: Gillian Clyve				
	First Nations people want romance too Dr Anita Heiss & Lisa Heidke (Darcy) Sponsored by Simon & Schuster Anita will be in conversation with Lisa Heidke (Darcy) discussing her body of work on the themes of love and romance; from Not Meeting Mr Right and Avoiding Mr Right, to her internationally set novels, Manhattan Dreaming and Paris Dreaming. This	Are you ready for an editor? <i>Kelly Hunter</i> Join Kelly Hunter and Cathleen Ross to uncover secrets of today's complex category romance market. What works for one publishing house may not work for another. For the willing, submit a 170-word (max) back-page blurb and the first three pages of your current story two weeks before the	Mining the backstory for gems Shannon Curtis Romance readers care about the characters they read about, and engage with them on an emotional level. Shannon shows you HOW this works, and how to create a character readers want to care about, how to use Backstory to generate story and relationship turning	How Draft2digital is growing for you Dan Wood Sponsored by Draft2Digital In March 2022, Draft2Digital acquired Smashwords. With that merger of the two top companies in this space, the landscape for indie authors and publishers instantly changed. In this talk we're going to tell you how consolidation				
	discussion will also include Anita's original and ongoing desire to write First Nations people into the rom com landscape.	workshop. We'll select examples for editorial-desk discussion and Kelly will edit those first few pages in real time. *Positive, practical feedback, no tissues required. Are	points (Frontstory), why motivation MATTERS to goals and conflict – in a tried, tested and repeatable method that will help writers with their current WIP and beyond.	we're going to ten you now consolidatio will create new opportunities and ope new doors for authors everywhere. We'r sharing some of what we're doing behin the scenes, some of what's coming in th near future, and our take on what indi				

Perth Room

		SUNDAY 13 AUGUST 2023
2.45pm – 5.00pm		Y SESSION: Wentworth Ballroom For: Rachael Johns
	2.45pm	Romance Writers of Australia Annual General Meeting (AGM)
	3.15pm	Staying published: how to keep riding the publishing roller coaster Stefanie London
	4.00pm	If we build it, they will come! RWAus Feature: Enisa Haines
	4.20pm	Raffle draw and silent auction winners announced
	4.30pm	Launch of 2024 conference
	4.45pm	Close of conference

Level 3 Foyer