

Friday WORKSHOPS

Barbara SAMUEL

AM: Learning to Hear Your Own Voice

Every writer is as unique as her fingerprint, but we can't always see how that is true or how to use it to our own advantage in the market. What are the things that make your own work powerful? What is the difference between voice and style? How can you adapt your special qualities to genres and/or subgenres to create the most successful fit? Using interactive exercises, Barbara Samuel will explore the tools to help you tap into your most powerful resource--your own voice.

PM: Layering in Lusciousness

A great writer is one who knows the entire spectrum of tools and how to use them to create a world that feels absolutely true. This is not about poetry or "lyrical" writing, but how to bring the entire realm of the senses into your work to create something solid and real, and to take good work to GREAT work. We will use hands-on exercises to explore what your primary senses are, and how to use that to your advantage, how to use colour and scent and touch, and how to know what to leave in, and what to take out.

Margie LAWSON

All day: Empowering Characters' Emotions

Want to add a psychological punch to your writing and editing?

Want to learn how to capture the full range of body language on the page?

Want to hook the reader viscerally and turn your work into a page-turner?

If so – this is the master class for you!

Look forward to learning: the EDITS System, the Four Levels of Powering Up Emotion, nonverbal gender differences, writing fresh and much, much more!

Saturday Tutorials

morning

afternoon



From Premise to Published: finding the Zen of your backstory ~ Fiona Lowe

Create a compelling start to your story; one that makes your reader drop everything and keep turning the page. Learn how to avoid the "info dump", heighten tension and ultimately increase understanding between the Hero and Heroine. This is an interactive workshop using multi media. Participants need to bring their back-story and first chapter to workshop. **For beginning to intermediate writers**

Beyond CSI – First hand experience of the world of forensic investigation.

(More details to follow – watch Hearts Talk).

Panel: "Make Mine Hot" ~ Stephanie Laurens, Keri Arthur, Carol Marinelli, Carla Molini

Join published authors from a variety of genres for a discussion on how to increase the heat in your romance.

For all levels.

Deep Point of View ~ Anna Campbell

Through written exercises and group activities, participants will develop skills in employing deep point of view to increase the emotional punch of their writing. Participant interaction will be encouraged as participants learn techniques for using sensory detail and emotional memory to give their work the visceral impact the current romance market requires.

For all levels.

Published Authors Round Table

Convenor: Marion Lennox

The Hero/ine's Journey ~ Ian Robinson

In Joseph Campbell's classic analysis of myth, The Hero with a Thousand Faces, the hero/ine sets out on a quest to defeat the forces of evil and gain a reward that will restore the world. This workshop will provide an understanding of the nature of the hero/ine's journey, which is essential craft knowledge for all storytellers.

For all levels.

The Many Aspects of Conflict--the web that comes between ~ Jo Beverley

We all know about conflict, that without conflict we don't have a story, but conflict should be as multilayered as our characters and our setting. The main barrier to love probably grows out of other aspects of the characters plus their community, time, and place, and this is why it isn't solved by one decision or one conversations, but by the continuous process off the book. Jo Beverley will illustrate this and how it develops in a novel.

For all levels.

Meaning, Importance and Falling in Love ~ Lilian Darcy

This ninety-minute session is aimed at anyone who has struggled, is struggling, or suspects they're going to struggle with a book. It explores the issue of importance in our writing – magic, meaning and falling in love - and how brainstorming and trouble-shooting this area can help our books turn out better.

For beginner to intermediate writers.

Deep Editing ~ Margie Lawson

Dig deep into deep editing with Margie's Five Question Scene Checklist. From spotting missed opportunities to rating scenes, you'll learn how to deep edit your way to success.

For advanced and published writers.



Sunday Tutorials

morning

You Can Love the Shrek side of Writing ~ *'Princess Fiona' McArthur*

The deadline is days away, the word count needs to lose the decimal point, the hero and heroine are AWOL and it's such a beautiful day out there!

Let's talk excuses, how to sort the house, kiss the kids, and get your bum on the seat.

Because onions and ogres have layers and the joy of writing is there.

For beginning to intermediate writers.

A

The Fine Art of Wielding a Battle Axe - Weapons and Armour from the Romans to the Middle Ages ~ *Lorenzo*

One thousand years of history explained by people's preferred means of violence! A hands-on workshop looking at why the Romans won, on to barbarian hordes, the rise of the knights and their replacement by tax-paid peasants with guns, as well as a diversion to the samurai. This presentation takes you into the guts of history via the weapons that took people there, and the armour that (sometimes) got in the way.

For all levels.

B

Unleashing the Subconscious ~ *Stella McLeod*

In this workshop you will learn the skill of how to understand and work with the subconscious mind and unleash not only your life memory but that of the ancestral mind and genetic memory. It will increase your creativity, eliminate writers block and writing your next book will keep you spellbound as your characters write the story for you.

For all levels.

C

Scene Structure ~ *Joan Kilby*

Learn how to structure your scenes for maximum dramatic effect. Every scene should be a mini-story with a beginning, middle and an end. Joan will talk about pov, scene purpose, turning point, climax and more, paying particular attention to pivotal scenes such as the black moment. Bring along a scene of your own to analyse and workshop.

For all levels.

D

TIME OUT FOR NOURISHMENT: taking care of the girls in the basement so they can take care of you. ~ *Barbara Samuel*

Any writer who has been in the business for more than a couple of years knows that the damndest things can derail you. Figuring out ways to stay in love with the work without giving up your commercial eye is the biggest challenge we all face. Join us for a workshop on the care and feeding of the girls in the basement for those who've been around the block.

For published authors.

E

afternoon



Reading the Rejection Letter ~ *Anne Gracie*

Rejection letters that go beyond the usual form rejection often carry more useful information than you might realize. This session examines what really lies behind some of the phrases used, and offers some techniques for tackling the problems flagged. Examples used will include those from now-published authors.

For advanced writers.

A

Paranormal Romance & Urban Fantasy: What's the difference? ~ *Keri Arthur*

Everyone says paranormal romance and urban fantasy are the new "hot" genres, but how much does urban fantasy differ from paranormal romance? Are there rules about "tough girl" protagonists and the amount of allowable sex? Join in on a discussion with New York Times best selling author Keri Arthur about reader expectations and where an author draws those blurry genre lines.

For all levels.

B

The Regency World ~ *Dr. Jennifer Kloester*

For those who want to know more about this tantalising period, its dramatis personae, its manners, modes and fashions, this workshop will offer a way into the romantic world of Regency England. With insights into the social, cultural and historical aspects of the era, it is the ideal workshop for writers who are targeting this period. It will also include a comprehensive research bibliography.

For all levels.

C

Spellbound by Storytelling ~ *Imelda Evans and Cindy-Lee Harper*

Pens down and voices up as Imelda Evans and Cindy-Lee Harper introduce you to the wonderful world of told stories. In this workshop you will hear stories, learn how to play with stories and even tell a story yourself (yes, really). Unleash your inner performer, learn something new and have fun!

For all levels.

D

Bringing Characters To Life ~ *Marion Lennox*

A fabulous plot should make your acquiring editor splurt her coffee, toss the mug and start turning pages with feverish abandon. The only reason she won't is if your characters don't speak to her. This workshop is about getting to know your characters, relaxing into their voices, then loosening the reins and allowing them to tell their own story in their own sparkling dialogue.

For beginning to intermediate writers.

E

bonus EXTRAS

DISCOUNT ACCOMMODATION ~ A fantastic discounted rate has been negotiated with your conference venue, the Langham. Stay in sumptuous surroundings and be pampered by top-notch service. Remember to fill in your accommodation request (extra forms can be

downloaded from www.romanceaustralia.com) and mail or fax it to the hotel. If your budget is extra tight, there are loads of alternative accommodation just a short walk away.

THE TUTORIALS ~ Every writer has different needs and our tutorial choices reflect that - no matter if you're a newbie, an old hand or multi published. At this conference we're offering four session times for you to attend. Please note that our "published authors only" tutorial is for authors published in book-length fiction only.

EDITOR/AGENT APPOINTMENTS ~ 10 minute appointments. Take advantage of the opportunity to pitch your novel to an expert in the publishing business. Please be aware that this is for members with a full, complete novel only. In times of high demand, you may be allocated a group interview. Please check Hearts Talk and our website in the coming months to find out what our publishing industry experts are looking for from authors.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY PLENARY TALKS ~ We've gone all out to provide a wide range of local and international speakers for you. These general plenary sessions are designed for all levels of writer so you'll hear about the industry, writing techniques and other related topics. Something for everyone!

AUTHOR CHATS ~ These popular sessions provide two opportunities to talk with published authors in a relaxed atmosphere. Discuss new trends and get the best information about your targeted market. Groups will be kept as small as practicable.

FIRST CONFERENCE? - Feeling a bit daunted? We have newbie liaisons ready to help make your conference experience a fantastic one. When you register on Friday or Saturday morning, let us know you'd like to be included in the group. They'll meet at about 8.20am so register early.

BOOK STALL ~ generously supplied by Dymocks, specialists in romance fiction. Check them out at www.dymocks.com.au

GOODY BAGS, GIVEAWAYS AND OTHER GREAT STUFF ~ As usual our goody bags are chock with treats, plus we have generous raffle prizes every day and lucky door prizes throughout the weekend.

helpful INFORMATION

THE VENUE AND SURROUNDS ~ Overlooking the tranquil Yarra River, the Langham Hotel is nestled amongst an abundance of al fresco cafés, restaurants and boutiques. The National Gallery of Victoria, Federation Square, the Arts Centre and

Casino are on your doorstep. Melba Brasserie serves the best of Melbourne's world famous cuisine while at the same time offering magical views of the River.

Hotel Website: Melbourne.langhamhotels.com.au Phone: (61) (3) 8696 8888

Email: mel.resv@langhamhotels.com

GETTING THERE ~ The Langham is right on Southbank, across the Yarra from Flinders Street train station. Taxi and bus services are available from Melbourne Airport. For flights to Melbourne go to Virgin Blue at www.virginblue.com.au or call 13 6789, Qantas at www.qantas.com.au or call 13 1313 and Jetstar at www.jetstar.com.au or call 13 1538.



ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FORM
Romance Writers of Australia Conference
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[[DETAILS TBC]]