



LOCAL WRITER HÉLÈNE YOUNG NOMINATED FOR THE ACADEMY AWARDS OF ROMANCE WRITING

The accolades just keep coming for local author Hélène Young who has today been short-listed for the RUBY Award – the Romantic Book of the Year – known in the industry as the academy awards of the Australian romance writing world.

President of the Romance Writers of Australia (RWA), Alison Ahearn, says the RUBY is a highly coveted award and the number and standard of entries this year was extremely high. “We developed the RUBY Awards thirteen years ago to recognise and celebrate the best novels of the previous year written by an Australian or New Zealand author. This year we received over 150 entries and the calibre of writing in this region just goes from strength-to-strength.”

“The 2011 award received entries from most of the major publishing houses including Allen & Unwin, Penguin, Pan Macmillan, Harper Collins, Hachette Australia and Harlequin Mills and Boon, covering sub-genres including historical, fantasy, paranormal, young adult, romantic suspense and more,” said Ms Ahearn. “Australian authors are attracting significant international attention in the billion dollar a year romance fiction industry.”

Ms Young’s debut book, *Wings of Fear* (formerly *Border Watch*), published by Hachette Australia, was short-listed in the Romantic Elements category. “I’m thrilled *Wings of Fear* has received such a wonderful response from readers. It is a great honour to be nominated among so many talented Australian and New Zealand writers,” said Ms Young.

Wings of Fear also won this year’s Australian Romance Readers Association award for Favourite Romantic Suspense. “It’s great to know that readers have really connected with my book.”

Wings of Fear is the first instalment of a trilogy focusing on the coastal surveillance operations round Australia. The second book *Shattered Sky* has just been released and is available at Collins Booksellers at Smithfield, QBD in Cairns Central, and all good on-line bookstores. *Burning Lies*, the third in the series, is due for release in February 2012.

“I’ve been inventing stories all my life and love the fact that I can incorporate my experience as a pilot and my passion for flying in my writing.”

The winners of the RUBY award will be announced at the RWA annual conference being held in Melbourne in August.

Run by RWA, the RUBY is voted on by Australian readers and is the largest reader judged writers’ competition in Australia. The RUBY features four categories – short sweet romance, short sexy romance, long romance and romantic elements. RWA was formed in 1991 to promote romance writing in Australia and to help aspiring authors achieve publishing success.

Find out more about Hélène Young at www.heleneyoung.com

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Author Bio

An airline pilot with twenty-two years flying experience, Helene finds inspiration for her stories in the most unlikely places. She’s a senior Check and Training Captain with Australia’s largest regional airline and flies throughout regional Queensland. ‘I love chatting to the locals in places as varied as Weipa, Cloncurry or Horn Island. Their experiences of everyday life are so very different to most Australians. And they all have a story to tell. I have the added bonus of an office with the best view in the world as I look down from twenty-five thousand feet above the ground.’

In between flights she finds time to write action packed Romantic Suspense stories with feisty heroines. Her second novel, *Shattered Sky*, was released in Australia on the 1st February 2011 by Hachette Australia. Set in North Queensland it's a fast paced thriller with a love story that will steal your heart.

Her first novel *Wings of Fear*, under its original title of *Border Watch*, recently won the ARRA award for Favourite Australian Romantic Suspense. This same story, as an unpublished manuscript, was a finalist in the prestigious RWAmerica Golden Heart Award in 2008.