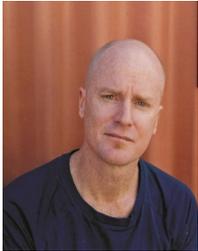




# Rockingham Writers Convention

## WORKSHOPS & PRESENTERS

### PLOTTING AND HOW TO MAKE A READER WANT TO TURN THE PAGE with DAVID WHISH-WILSON



This workshop will investigate some different plot styles, from the character-driven novel to the thriller form, utilising exercises to illustrate and get you started.

**David Whish-Wilson** was born in Newcastle, NSW, but grew up in Singapore, Victoria and WA. He left Australia aged 18 to live for a decade in Europe, Africa and Asia. His most recent novel, *Shore Leave* was published by Fremantle Press in 2020. David lives in Fremantle and coordinates the creative writing program at Curtin University.

### BEHIND THE SMOKE & MIRRORS - WHAT BEING PUBLISHED IS REALLY ABOUT with RACHEL JOHNS

What being published is really about. In this workshop bestselling author Rachel Johns looks at strategies for dealing with doubt, writers block, producing books regularly as well as touching on the role of social media in your business.



**Rachael Johns**, an English teacher by trade and a mum 24/7, is the bestselling ABIA-winning author of *The Patterson Girls* and a number of other romance and women's fiction books including *The Art of Keeping Secrets*, *The Greatest Gift*, *Lost Without You* and *Just One Wish*. She is currently Australia's leading writer of contemporary relationship stories around women's issues, a genre she has coined 'life-lit'. Rachael lives in the Perth hills with her hyperactive husband, three mostly-gorgeous heroes-in-training and a very badly behaved dog. Her new book, *How To Mend a Broken Heart* is out now.

### THE PLEASURES AND CHALLENGES OF SHORT STORY WRITING with SUSAN MIDALIA

There are many different ways to tell a story. You can use a first person or third person narrator; you can use two different narrators who offer two conflicting versions of the same event. There are also many different ways to structure a story. You can begin a story by revealing the ending. You can use a series of headings, or create two different endings. But whatever point of view or structure you choose, it's crucial to use language that will engage your reader from the opening sentence and encourage them to read on.

This ninety-minute workshop will use short writing exercises designed to get you thinking about those three important aspects of short story writing: point of view, structure and language. We will also discuss examples of published stories, and consider what works and why. I will provide constructive feedback for people willing to read their work aloud to the group.

Bring your writing implements, and a love of language and story. My only rule? Participants must have fun.



**Susan Midalia** is the author of three short story collections, all shortlisted for major Australian literary awards: *A History of the Beanbag*, *An Unknown Sky* and *Feet to the Stars*. She has also published two novels: *The Art of Persuasion* and the newly released *Everyday Madness*. Susan is a highly experienced workshop facilitator, having worked for many years with both emerging and established writers across a range of ages. She also works as a freelance editor, a writing mentor and the judge of writing competitions, including the Western Australian Premiers Book Awards, the T.A.G. Hungerford Award, the Margaret River Press Short Story Competition and the Katharine Susannah Prichard Short Fiction Award. Her current writing passion is flash fiction, a collection of which has been accepted for publication in 2022.

### DEVELOPING COMPELLING CHARACTERS with Rachel Watts

Sasha takes an interactive approach to help writers enrich their character development skills. Explore and experiment with creating complex and rich characters, understanding character arcs, making character and plot work together, using archetypes, personality traits and flaws, and character motive and drive.

This workshop will suit both new writers and established authors, diving deep into character as a key element of storytelling.



**Rachel Watts** is a former journalist and now a writer of both fiction and creative non-fiction living on Whadjuk Noongar Country, also known as Perth, Western Australia. She started her writing career in local newspapers, and first turned to fiction in 2014. Rachel has a special interest in writing about loss, the environment and mental health. Her work has been published in *Westerly*, *Island*, *Kill Your Darlings* and *Tincture Journal* among others. She reviews books for the *Westerly* Editor's Desk and also here on my blog.

As well as writing, Rachel enjoys working as a writing tutor for young people, a community builder and facilitating workshops on writing craft. She has a young dog who is learning how to behave, and loves to spend time outdoors watching birds and growing vegetables.

### RUNNING YOUR WRITING BUSINESS with Annabel Smith



In addition to being a writer, modern authors need to wear many hats including business owner, public relations officer, and accountant in order to create a successful business surrounding your writing. Annabel Smith gives some insight into setting yourself up as a business, as well as communication and financial management strategies.

**Annabel Smith** is the author of *Whisky Charlie Foxtrot*, *A New Map of the Universe*, which was shortlisted for the WA Premier's Book Awards, and a digital interactive novel/app *The Ark*. Her short fiction and non-fiction has been published in *Southerly*, *Westerly*, and *Kill Your Darlings*. She holds a PhD in Writing, is an Australia Council Creative Australia Fellow, and is a member of the editorial board of Margaret River Press.

### PREPARING AND EDITING SHORT FICTION with DEBORAH HUNN

*How to Be an Author* writer Deborah Hunn shares tips about short story writing, finding a mentor, working with your peers to get feedback, brainstorming triggers for creativity, finding your voice, and editing your final work so that it is ready for submission.



**Deborah Hunn** is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing in the School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry at Curtin University. Deborah completed a PhD at the University of Western Australia and has taught for three decades at universities in Western Australia and South Australia. Her award-winning work has been published in a range of anthologies, edited collections and journals, and includes shorts stories, creative non-fiction, academic essays on literature, film and television, and reviews.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO SELF PUBLISH - CLAIRE BOSTON

This workshop will take you through the ins and outs of self-publishing covering the different options available to authors depending on their reasons for publishing. It will cover creating the final product including editing, cover art, proofreading and formatting, selecting distributors and all uploading requirements.



This workshop is for anyone who has thought about self-publishing and wants to know more.

**Claire Boston** fell in love with romance and romantic suspense at eleven when she discovered her mother's stash of Nora Roberts novels. Like Nora, she writes series set around families or groups of friends with a guaranteed happy ending.

She loves travelling and learning about new cultures and interesting vocations which she then weaves into her writing. In 2020 two of her novels were shortlisted in the Romantic Book of the Year (Romantic Suspense) category. Her series include *The Flanagan Sisters* and *The Blackbridge Series*.

### WRITING FOR YOUNG ADULTS with Deb Fitzpatrick



This workshop will focus on practical exercises and techniques for cultivating authentic young adult characters through voice and dialogue.

**Deb Fitzpatrick** lives and works in Fremantle, as a freelance editor and writer. Deb wrote *90 packets of instant noodles* while living in a shack in the cloud forest of Costa Rica, and *Have you seen Ally Queen?* while backpacking through South America. She wrote *The Amazing Spencer Gray* at a café in South Fremantle. Deb has a Master of Arts (Creative Writing) from UWA and teaches professional writing and editing at Curtin University.

## BRINGING YOUR FANTASY STORY TO LIFE with JULIET MARILLIER

What do you love best in a great fantasy? A convincing world that draws the reader right in? Characters who, however weird they may be, stay with you long after you've finished reading? Protagonists whose journeys we share every step of the way? Themes that resonate in our own lives? In this two hour workshop we'll investigate those and other questions, and practice ways you can make your story both fantastic and immediate, both strange and relevant. Bring writing materials.



**Juliet Marillier** is the author of twenty-four historical fantasy novels, including the *Sevenwaters* and *Blackthorn & Grim* series, and two collections of short stories. Her work is published internationally and has won many awards. Juliet loves mythology, folklore, music and complex characters. She will have a new novel out in August 2021: *A Song of Flight*, third and final instalment of the fantasy series *Warrior Bards*, from Pan Macmillan. Her most recent publication is the fairy tale collection *Mother Thorn*, illustrated by Kathleen Jennings and published by Serenity Press. Juliet's writing companion is her elderly rescue dog, Reggie.

## JUST WRITE! - SETTING GOALS AND STAYING MOTIVATED PANEL DISCUSSION with RILEY ONYX, CLAIRE BOSTON, DEB FITZPATRICK AND ANNABEL SMITH



**Riley Onyx** Where aliens rule the skies, and mates are captured and claimed is where Riley Onyx is happiest writing. Her heroes are powerful, and her heroines are their match, and their romance will ignite your imagination. When not exploring other worlds and civilizations, Riley lives in Fremantle, Australia. One day she plans on growing up and doing something sensible with her life, but today is not that day.