



Sunshine Writers Retreat

Relax. Create. Connect. Explore. Grow.

P R O G R A M 2 0 1 8

Thursday 15 – Sunday 18 November

Montville Country Cabins, 396 Western Avenue, Montville QLD

THURSDAY

2:00pm Guests arrive at the retreat venue and check-in to their deluxe accommodation.

Enjoy stunning views across green hills and the national park. Explore your surroundings, drop into the beautiful village of Montville to pick up a souvenir. Write up a storm or simply relax and soak up the atmosphere.

4:00pm Introductory **Yoga/Meditation Session** (Residents ONLY).

6:00pm **Welcome Dinner** (at own expense) in Montville with **Aleesah Darlison** as host.

FRIDAY

Enjoy breakfast from your in-room hamper, go for a walk or enjoy some writing time.

8:30am Arrival and Registration at the Conference Venue.

9:00am Masterclass: **Planning & Plotting Your Novel** with **TM Clark (Author)**

Take the challenge! Sit down with TM Clark, master novel writer, to learn how to plan and plot your story. Learn about hooks and cliff-hangers and how to layer your novel with multiple story lines and characters. Have you thought of everything? Do you have a story map to keep you on track? Includes exercises.

Includes Morning Tea with home baked treats

12:00pm Lunch plus local bookseller pop-up stall – book sales and signings.

1:00pm Masterclass: **Digging Up Bones – What it Takes to Research, Write and Make Historical Fiction Work for Today's Teen Readers** with **Allison Paterson (Author)**

May Gibbs Fellow and historical novelist, Allison Paterson, takes you through the processes involved in researching and writing an historical novel. Where do you find the facts you need and how do you keep track of the information you uncover? Meticulous research and constant digging underpins historical novels. Other challenges lie in learning how to subtly weave facts through your narrative and nail the voice for modern readers. Allison shows you how she did it, so you can too!

Includes Afternoon Tea with home baked treats

4:00pm Free Time plus **Publisher and Agent Face-To-Face Manuscript Assessments**.

6:00pm Publishers and Agent (Rochelle Manners, Wombat Books, Diane Evans, Big Sky Publishing and to join us for a **Buffet Dinner and Dessert**. Special Panel Presentation: **The State of the Industry Panel plus Question Time: Ask Us Anything!** **Rochelle Manners** (Wombat Books), **Diane Evans** (Big Sky Publishing), **Margaret Kennedy** (Literary Agent) & **Aleesah Darlison** (Author & Owner of Greenleaf Press).

Greenleaf Events is part of the Greenleaf Press Group
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Enjoy breakfast from your in-room hamper, go for a walk or enjoy some writing time.

8:30am Arrival and Registration at the Conference Venue.

9:00am Masterclass: **Creating, Writing and Pitching a Children's Series** with **Rebecca Johnson (Author)**

With over 100 books to her name, Rebecca Johnson is the Queen of Children's Book Series in both the fiction and non-fiction categories. Rebecca explains how she developed her various series then pitched them to publishers. What opportunities and gaps did she capitalise on? What were the essential elements she identified to ensure her series were successful? Learn invaluable inside knowledge so you can start creating your own series.

Includes Morning Tea with home baked treats

12:00pm Lunch plus local bookseller pop-up stall – book sales and signings.

1:00pm Masterclass: **Raising the Stakes – Creating Tension, Drama and Action in Your Stories** with **Casey Ardron (Author)**

Learn how to build tension, drama and action into your stories like an expert! Have readers sitting on the edge of their seat as they devour your heart-stopping adventure. Using his cinemagraphic writing style, Casey Ardron, fantasy-adventure author will show you how. Bring your imagination and a strong sense of adventure to this masterclass where anything can happen as long as it keeps your reader turning pages!

Includes Afternoon Tea with home baked treats

4:00pm Free Time plus **Story Circles**
Break into groups to read your stories out and gain critical feedback from other delegates plus mentoring and advice from Aleesah Darlison.

6:00pm Relaxed and informal **Barbecue Dinner and Dessert** around a glorious Fire Pit (Residents ONLY).



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SUNDAY

Enjoy breakfast from your in-room hamper, go for a walk or enjoy some writing time.

8:30am Arrival and Registration at the Conference Venue.

9:00am Masterclass: **Ideas Are All Around Us with** Aleesah Darlison (**Author & Owner of Greenleaf Press**)

Be like a bower-bird collecting story ideas then write for your life! Where do ideas come from and how can you turn them into stories? How do you know what ideas will work for different genres or readers? Gain an insight into how you can collect, retain and use ideas for stories so that you're never short of something to write about! Using various prompts, sources and strategies, Aleesah leads participants through a range of exercises to collect and develop ideas into stories. There will be time to start planning and creating stories from these ideas and to share initial drafts with others. This is an interactive session that will leave participants feeling truly empowered and inspired.

Includes Morning Tea with home baked treats

12:00pm Lunch plus local bookseller pop-up stall – book sales and signings.

1:00pm Masterclass: **The Author-Illustrator Perspective** with **Dave Hackett (Author-Illustrator)**

Meet Dave Hackett of 'Cartoon Dave' fame. He's an outrageously handsome author, cartoonist and regular on kids TV. Join Dave for a high-energy session to learn what it's like to be both author and illustrator and how it helps his work to see dual sides of the creative process. Draw and write with Dave in this fun-filled, interactive session that will have you thinking and creating in new ways.

Includes Afternoon Tea with home baked treats

4:00pm Depart