



Sunshine Writers Retreat

Relax. Create. Connect. Explore. Grow.

PROGRAM 2019

Thursday 14 – Sunday 17 November

Montville Country Cabins, 396 Western Avenue, Montville QLD

THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER

- 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).
- 6:30pm **Welcome Dinner** (at own expense) in Montville with **Aleesah Darlison** as host.

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER

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: **Golden Kernels – Collecting and Developing Ideas for Junior Fiction and Middle Grade with Susanne Gervay (Author)**
Celebrated, beloved, award-winning author, Susanne Gervay (OAM), shows you how to collect and develop ideas for junior fiction and middle grade stories. What themes, issues and word lengths are suitable for these ages? What gaps in the market should authors write to? Are series or stand-alone novels best? Susanne uses her vast industry knowledge and writing experience tell it like it is and lead you through practical exercises to develop concepts for your own junior fiction or middle grade novel.
Includes Morning Tea with home baked treats
- 12:00pm Lunch plus Pop-Up Bookstore – Book Sales and Signings.
Book Launch Michelle Worthington, *Little Gnome's Christmas Wish* (PB, Clear Fork Publishing USA)
- 1:00pm Masterclass: **Creating Adventure Stories and Filling them with Tension, Drama and Cliff Hangers with Jo Sandhu (Author)**
Jo Sandhu is a children's author, traveller, mother, dreamer, animal lover and story teller. Her *Tarin of the Mammoths* series has received multiple short-listings as well as winning the 2018 Readings Children's Book Prize. In this masterclass, Jo shows you how to craft thrilling adventure stories filled with tension, drama and cliff hangers. She'll keep you on the edge of your seats while giving your imaginations a thorough workout as she teaches you how to keep your characters in trouble.
Includes Afternoon Tea with home baked treats
- 4:00pm Free Time plus **Publisher and Agent Face-To-Face Manuscript Assessments** and **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 Transfer by shuttle for **Relaxed, Intimate Three Course Gourmet Dinner at Wild Rocket Restaurant, Montville**. Special Panel Presentation: **Where the Publishing Opportunities Lie - Exploring and Leveraging Australian and International Markets** Peter & Kathy Creamer (Little Pink Dog Books), **Justine Barker** (Mayfair Literary Agency), **Susanne Gervay** (Author, SCBWI Regional Coordinator) & **Aleesah Darlison** (Author & Owner of Greenleaf Press).

Greenleaf Events is part of the Greenleaf Press Group
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SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER

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: **A Novel Approach: Dialogue, Hooks & Powerful Endings** with **Richard Yaxley (Author)**

OAM and multiple award-winning adult and young adult author, Richard Yaxley, shares his writing processes and shows how you can emulate them to ensure your own novel writing success. Richard will share tips and techniques for planning, structuring and writing a novel. He'll explain how he uses realistic dialogue coupled with evocative description to carry your storyline, and how authors can develop enticing opening hooks and powerful endings in their stories.

Includes Morning Tea with home baked treats

12:00pm Lunch plus Pop-Up Bookstore – Book Sales and Signings.

1:00pm Masterclass: **Characters and Voice, Love and Loss** with **Cass Moriarty (Author)**

Join Cass Moriarty, author of *Parting Words* and *The Promise Seed* (Longlisted 2017 Dublin International Literary Award, Shortlisted People's Choice Award at the 2016 QLD Literary Awards, Shortlisted Emerging Author at the 2013 QLD Literary Awards), as she shows you how to create characters with unique voices, histories and journeys. How can you make characters seem realistic and believable yet extraordinary, daring, exciting and enticing at the same time? Cass loves to explore feelings and circumstances beyond her own experience when she's writing. She also loves to explore tragedies and critical events that shape families and childhoods. Her themes of guilt, redemption, loyalty, loss and love are dealt with in her emotive novels and here she'll show you how you can explore, expose and exploit these sometimes difficult but always intriguing concepts for your own literary purposes.

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**. Includes a Fun Literary **Trivia Quiz**, Second-Hand **Book Swap** and **Essential Oils Showcase** by **Sarah Tegardine (Residents ONLY)**.



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SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER

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: **Picture Books: Think Like an Illustrator, Write Like an Author**
with **Shannon Horsfall (Author-Illustrator)**

In this masterclass led by talented author-illustrator, Shannon Horsfall, you'll learn the key elements required for creating a successful picture book. Shannon will discuss story structure, storyboarding and story arcs. She'll lead you through exercises to generate ideas for your own picture book stories, how writing picture books and read-aloud stories is different to writing novels, and how to create a sensational hook for your first page. Shannon will also discuss her illustration techniques and show how she marries her text with pictures. She might even get you to draw some of the characters from her books!

Includes Morning Tea with home baked treats

12:00pm Lunch plus Pop-Up Bookstore – Book Sales and Signings.

1:00pm Masterclass: **Building an Author Platform and Author Self-Promotion**
with **Aleesah Darlison (Author & Owner of Greenleaf Press)**

Once upon a time, when you dreamed of becoming an author you didn't tell anyone until your book was printed and in your hands. That isn't the case anymore. If you're an aspiring author, you need to get your name out there BEFORE your book comes out. If you're an emerging or established author there are always new avenues to explore to ensure your name STAYS out there so your books sell. Here, Aleesah Darlison, one of Australia's most successful children's authors and marketers, shows you how to develop a comprehensive author platform in 'real life' and through social media. She'll share tips, tools, techniques and handy hacks showing you what groups to join, where to network and how to cultivate a strong author image and gain confidence while doing it. Learn how to create awareness, stand out and establish yourself as a leader in the market – and even sell some books along the way.

Includes Afternoon Tea with home baked treats

4:00pm Depart