

Love Is in the Air – And on the Page!

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to celebrate the stories that make us believe in the power of love. Romance Writers of Australia (RWAus) is shining a spotlight on the talented storytellers behind the world's favourite genre. Romance novels are more than just page-turners—they are a global phenomenon (think *Bridgerton* by Julia Quin or *Twisted Love* by Ana Huang), consistently holding the title as the highest-selling genre in the publishing industry, worth billions of dollars annually.

"Romance novels give readers a chance to escape, to dream, and to experience the triumph of love over adversity," says Jem Gowen, President of Romance Writers of Australia. "The genre continues to grow because it speaks to something universal: the desire for connection and hope. Our authors are at the heart of this success, creating stories that resonate with readers everywhere."

Romance is a genre that spans subcategories, from historical romance to contemporary, fantasy to romantic suspense, ensuring there is something for every reader. With Valentine's Day at the forefront of everyone's mind, it's the perfect time to pick up a romance novel and dive into a world of love, passion, and happily-ever-afters.

Spotlight on Local Talent

Local author Tanya Nellestein, known for her edgy yet heartfelt romantic suspense and Viking romance novels, shares her inspiration: "I love crafting stories where characters walk the edge—facing danger, heartbreak, and tough choices—only to discover the strength that love can bring. My latest book due out in March, *Murdered in Shadows*, the second in the Townsend & Gray series, delivers all the twists, turns, and emotional punch you'd expect."

Tanya's stories combine grit, passion, and heart, making them the perfect Valentine's escape for readers who crave a little edge with their romance. Dive into her world this February and discover a love story like no other!

Romance Writers of Australia is proud to support over 700 members across the country, fostering a safe, inclusive, and creative space for writers at all stages of their careers. The organisation provides professional development opportunities, networking, and industry recognition for both aspiring and established authors.

This Valentine's Day, celebrate the joy of storytelling by supporting romance writers and indulging in a love story that inspires and delights. For more information, visit www.romanceaustralia.com or www.tanyanellestein.com