

Alison Reynolds



Welcome to my November 2023 newsletter.

Time for a catch up!

(Of course if you would rather not receive any future newsletters please unsubscribe at the bottom of the page.)

I know I say that I'll start putting out newsletters more regularly and the intention is definitely there, but I need to work on the actual writing of the newsletter part. Life gets busy! And now we're careering towards Christmas at a rapid rate.

Tip for other grandparents. Don't joke that you'll give your four year old grand daughter a box of tissues for Christmas when she explains they don't have any at her house. Now she's worried that's all she's getting from me for Christmas and as she says while tissues are good, they're a bit boring.

Romance Writers Australia Conference

I was fortunate enough to present at this year's Romance Writer's of Australia conference. What a weekend! The glittering cocktail party had me dreaming glitter. I've learned there can never be enough glitter or sequins or sparkles. I met so many lovely, shiny people! Somehow I ended up wearing feathers on my head by the end of the night. It was that sort of evening. I gave a workshop on Epistolary Novels - hard to say, but fun to write. The audience was super smart and engaged. And while giving the talk, I worked out how to finish my current manuscript. Win win!

<https://willorganise.eventsair.com/2024-romance-writers-of-australia/>



Book Club

It was such a joy and a privilege to be part of the ever generous Lisa Ireland's, *The Reading Couch* book club this month when they discussed *The Near Daphne Experience*. It never fails to fascinate and surprise me how readers like or dislike the crazy characters I created. If you are looking for an online book club that is insightful, witty and very entertaining then you should definitely consider the Reading Couch. And check out Lisa's latest fabulous novel, *The One And Only Dolly Jamieson*. I adored it.

The Reading Couch <https://www.facebook.com/groups/149288140312440/>

<https://www.penguin.com.au/books/the-one-and-only-dolly-jamieson-9780143779889>

<https://www.lisairelandbooks.com/>

Port Fairy Literary Weekend.



September and it was off to the fabulous Port Fairy Literary Weekend. Jo Canham and her amazing team put on an amazing weekend of authors, art and fun. Unbelievably this weekend gets bigger and better each year. I can't recommend it enough. Jo really knows how to curate a weekend so three people of different interests all had something they were really keen to attend.

And finally the fabulous art work by Wendi Seymour inspired by *The Near Daphne Experience* and entered in the annual Biblio Art Prize is hanging in pride and place on my dining room wall.

<https://www.portfairyliteraryweekend.com.au/>

<https://www.blarneybooks.com.au/>

Ethel Turner House

I've made quite a few visits to the houses of writers and musicians I love. Who can forget climbing through a wheelie binned lane to see where Jim Morrison lived in Venice Beach? Definitely not the local dogs who announced our

presence to the whole neighbourhood. I will point out this was my husband's idea, which often seems to involve barking dogs and clambering over things.

So the visit to Woodlands in Killara, Sydney was refreshingly civilised. This was the home of Ethel Turner and where she wrote *Seven Little Australians*. For those of you that love this book as much as I do, you can imagine the thrill of sitting down with the generous owner Albert Lim in the room where Ethel wrote the book! I listened to music on a wind up record player and saw Ethel's own desk. This house felt lived in and as if Ethel Turner and her family had just popped outside for a second rather than a museum. Walking around the gardens was a highlight, especially seeing the seven conifers planted! Albert and his wife Eva bought the house unaware of its heritage, but have thrown themselves enthusiastically into saving Woodlands and promoting one of Australia's first female writers.

And save the date: You'll be able to visit Woodlands on 22/9/24!



Something Special.



Is there anything as cute as watching a duck family waddle across the Fitzroy Gardens in Melbourne? Especially with a two year old who wants a duckling as a pet and is willing to share his bath.

Visit to Western Victoria later this

month.

If you are in the Casterton area on Wednesday, November 29th I would love to catch up for a chat at the library. It is at 11am and it is a free event with light refreshments provided. [Details here](#). I can't wait as it has been far too long since I have visited this beautiful part of the state. And who wouldn't want to visit where the kelpie was invented/created/first bred. There's a kelpie trail that I'm going to follow.

While down that way I will also putting my Ranger in Danger hat back on for some school visits, The Littlest Bushranger will be having a gallop and Rudolph the Blue Nosed Reindeer may well be making an appearance!

What I am watching.



Hard Quiz

When I say I have been watching Hard Quiz I really mean it. Last month I went to Southbank and watched a recording of this hit ABC Quiz show. It was fascinating seeing what goes on behind the scenes and between recording we were kept laughing by Liam the warm up guy. (Warning to tall people. You really need to listen to the instruction not to stand up during the show with cameras flying everywhere.) Despite his grumpy TV persona Tom Gleeson was very appreciative of the audience and a congenial host, so if you want a good free night out I would highly recommend it. Tickets are still available for the next season's tapings [here](#).

What we all attain to?



Wrap up.

For those who have asked, my second novel is in the polishing stages and I can't wait to release it on its journey into the world. It's set in Melbourne and makes me laugh so that's at least one person who finds it funny. Hopefully other people will find it hilarious. (Fingers crossed)

Also if you missed out on any previous newsletters they are all available to download from my [website](#)

**Enjoy the warmer days ahead,
until the next newsletter... Alison**



Alison Reynolds

Alison's Website



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