

WORDSMITHS NEWSLETTER

12.2 May, 2012

Dear Wordsmiths and Friends,

A number of Wordsmiths have just returned after participating in a marvellous **Poetry Retreat** at the home of Robin and Bronwyn Pryor at St Andrew's Beach. We (Sue, Maree N, Janette, Peter, Cynthia and I) arrived at about 10am and after joining together for coffee, were led into a Quiet Day by Robin Pryor. We spent the next four hours in silence, which we found refreshing. We wrote, read, reflected and some walked the labyrinth in prayer. At the end we all met in the labyrinth for a conclusion to the Quiet Day and later most of us trekked to and along the beach, enjoying the grandeur of rollers coming in from the Southern Ocean. On Sunday morning I, Jean, went to the Uniting Church in Rosebud where I was so warmly welcomed that we have a tentative date to share some poetry in the service next year. After lunch it was lovely to have Leigh and Maree Silver joining us as we had a very helpful workshop led by Kristin Henry.



L to R: Robin, Cynthia, Jean, Leigh, Sue, Kristin, Maree N, Bronwyn, Janette, Peter

She started us thinking about some liminal or threshold experience in our lives and asked us then to write about it. What we found marvellous was the way she was able, after hearing one reading of our rough drafts, to make suggestions for improvement while encouraging us about the quality of our writing.

The weekend was made memorable by the wonderful range of food shared by those who came and the free ranging conversations, which took place. Of particular interest to us all was the answering of questions about ourselves, proposed by Janette after dinner on Saturday.

Those who were transported by others were also thankful for that provision and for the comfortable beds and the warm hospitality of our hosts, Robin and Bronwyn.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on Saturday **May 12th** at the home of Carolyn Vimpani, 8 Woodhouse Rd. Doncaster East. I hope we may then meet a possible new member, Kristen Whalley. Please remember to bring about 10 copies of one of your own original poems to be workshopped so that we can both see and hear your work. Also email a copy to Rebecca: beckybrl@vicnet.net.au

Graeme: gtwister@optusnet.com.au and Mary: oshannessy@villamaria.com.au

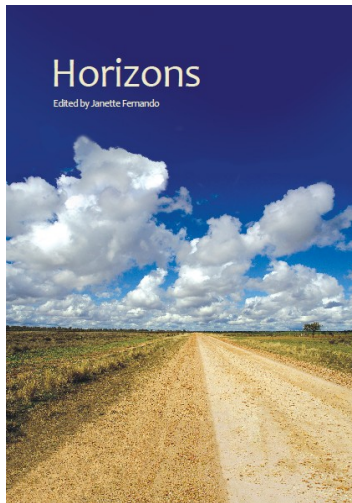
Here's the roster for the next few months:

Date	Leader	Afternoon tea
May 12th	Leigh	Don, Kathryn, Marcia
June 9th	Carolyn	Cath B, Maree N, Cecily
July 14th	Sue	Carolyn, Joan, Elaine

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Our February and March meetings were well attended, with much catch up chatter in February. I (Jean) led the February meeting, opening with a selection of poetry by Rudyard Kipling. Those present were challenged to write a poem containing the word Tatterdemalion. **Maree Silver** led the March meeting, commencing with a selection of Lenten Poetry by poets Elizabeth Bishop (1951), Seamus Heaney (1965), Arthur O'Saughnessy (1874), Evan Boland (1990) and Helen Mort.

LAUNCH OF HORIZONS



We were grateful that Peter Bakowski, though having been unwell during the week, was able to launch our latest anthology *Horizons*, edited by Janette. A lively and enjoyable evening with over 70 attendees was held at the Lutheran Church in Box Hill. We find this a very comfortable venue for such gatherings and have had a number of launches here over the years. As usual the evening was enlivened by music, in this instance Gideon Bosua played the cello, accompanied by his mother on piano.



Seventeen poets with poetry published in *Horizons* were listed to read their work, though a couple were unable to attend. Drinks and nibbles before, and supper afterwards gave people ample opportunity to meet each other and the poets. One person approached Janette asking when the next launch would be, because she had enjoyed the evening so much! I might add that it is one thing to launch a book and another to get it sold. Though we had

a good turnout at the launch most of the books taken that night were pre-ordered so it would be helpful if all of us could think of friends who might buy an extra copy or persuade the local library to buy one. It is also good to think about giving our books as birthday gifts. I am sad that our local bookshop in Box Hill has closed down so that venue for sale is lost.

READING AT BOX HILL LIBRARY

Thanks to **Kathryn Hamann** for liaising with Box Hill Library staff and *The Wordsmiths of Melbourne* to offer a wide-ranging selection of original poetry on March 16 with Cameron Semmens as our featured reader.



Cameron has recently released another book *The Zoo in You* and the audience was delighted by the selection of poems he chose to read. Members of the Wordsmiths also read some of their own poetry.

The next reading will be on Friday, **July 20th**, with **Cathy Altmann** as Guest Reader.

MEMBER NEWS

Janette's Leave of Absence

As Janette has finally persuaded her husband, Roger, to travel this year, they are leaving in a couple of week's time for a ten weeks tour of the UK, Europe and Sri Lanka. As a group we will not see Janette again until the August meeting. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the sterling work she has done as Managing Editor of our publishing for the past five years and wish her and Roger a safe journey and many blessings on their way.

Janette has had a poem accepted for publication in "In God's Hand" - a new book from Even Before Publishing.

We are missing **Graeme Turner** at our meetings and wish him well.

Joan Ray is making a steady recovery after her recent illness.

Joy Chellew is also recovering well after her shoulder operation.

Kathryn Hamann has several poems included in a new book she has edited by Penny Gillies: *Sentenced to Transportation*. It is due to be launched Sunday July 15th at 2.30 pm at St George's Anglican Church, cnr Lucknow and Baroda Streets Ascot Vale Also pray for Kathryn's daughter Judith, that funds will be forthcoming for her to be able to do a doctorate in the USA.

It was great to see Gordon and **Dilys Terry-Smith** at the reading at Box Hill Library.

Jean S-D is delighted that daughter Rachel and her husband Marco have bought a house in Kenmare Street, just a few minutes away from her home.

Please pray for Mieke Leo, the wife of Graham, whose book we published last year. She has several broken bones and is suffering with myeloma.

COMPETITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Blue Giraffe - Closing dates February and August annually. Selection is ongoing. Up to 5 poems not previously in print or electronic media and not under offer petermacrow@hotmail.com or, with SSAE or email contact for reply, to Peter Macrow, 6/16 Osborne Street, Sandy Bay, TAS 7005

Poetry Matters invites submissions. Send 4-6 poems and s.s.a.e. for prompt reply. Payment is one copy of issue in which work appears. Send to Cheryl Howard, 61 Palmer Crescent, Newham Vic 3442. Enquiries: **poetry.clh@gmail.com** To receive a complimentary copy of the journal send stamped (2 x 60c stamps), self-addressed C5 envelope to address above. <http://poetrymattersjournal.blogspot.com>

Windfall: Australian Haiku is a small annual print publication which seeks to publish fine examples of contemporary Australian haiku. Editor: Beverley George. Published by Blue Giraffe Press issue 1, 2012 - designed and printed for by Picaro Press. Submission period is June 30th – July 31st each year. Please obtain guidelines from Beverley George PO Box 37 Pearl Beach 2256 or email to beverleygeorge@idx.com.au with 'Windfall'

and your surname in the subject line **Windfall Subscriptions**: \$10 for two issues, including postage within Australia. Email bluegiraffepress@hotmail.com

Blake Poetry Prize - closing 8th June 2012 Exploring the Religious and Spiritual Through Poetry For more info go to www.nswwc.org.au

ALL POETRY Competition - Closes: 30th June 2012 A competition for all genres of original, unpublished poetry, 14- 40 lines written in English and not to have won a cash prize in any other competition. Send **two** copies of each poem. First Prize: \$ 200. Second Prize: \$80 Third prize \$50. Each winner will receive a copy of *Tangents*, poetry by The Kitchen Table Poets, cover drawing by Robert Dickerson. **Entry Fee \$7 per poem**. Cheques or money orders made out to **All Poetry**. No author name on ms. Please use a **cover sheet** showing name of author and poem, address, phone, (e-mail.) **Feedback comments will be forwarded to thirty or more entrants. Include ssae for this and results (optional.)** Entrants must be 18yrs or over. Send entries to **All Poetry PO Box 3268 North Nowra 2541** Conducted and judged by members of The Kitchen Table Poets, Shoalhaven. No entry form required. More information: e-mail i.wilkie@bigpond.com See website of ArtsRush Magazine Shoalhaven www.artsrush.com.au (Poetry News)

Mudgee Valley Writers Inc 13th Biennial Competition - Closing 27th July 2012 Open theme. Poetry: Rhyming Prize 1st \$200, 2nd \$50 Entry Forms and conditions email jillb@winsoft.net.au or s.s.a.e.to PO Box 356, Mudgee NSW 2850.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday May 7th, 7.00-9.30: CAFÉ POET: Lorraine McGuigan, Award willing poet. The Lane, St Laurence Lane Eltham Entry \$5.00 Bookings 9431 5263

Saturday, May 12th, 2-5pm: Wordsmiths Meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, Doncaster East.

Saturday, June 9th, 2-5pm: Wordsmiths meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster.

Saturday, July 14th, 2-5pm: Wordsmiths meeting at 8 Woodhouse Rd, East Doncaster

Friday, July 20th, 6.30-8 pm : Poetry reading at Box Hill Library with Cathy Altmann as guest reader.

POETS' CORNER



Easter sounds

1.

It begins as a murmur
a minority
swelling
to a mass
a crowd
clamouring
Crucify! Crucify!

whips cracking
a fire crackling
a cock crowing
a crown of thorns

a slap
a spit
a swish
a scratch

a Silence

a man clambering
with a cross
scraping the cobble-stones
a cacophony
of cheering
jeering
mocking flocks
– like sheep
without a Shepherd

a panting
a gasping
a guttural groaning
as hammers pound
pin each palm
to splintered wood

a die is cast
a woman weeps

Darkness descends

a curtain tears

a Voice cries out
My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?
the final breath
sighs 'Father'

Silence shrouds the air...

2.

a Sabbath rest...

3.

Day dawns –
the dirge
of women's lament
the slow shuffle
of leaden feet
wandering
wending their way
to where he was laid

a sudden crack!
a quake of earth!

a stone is rolled away –

shaken
shivering
quivering
hearts
are stilled
by angel words

He lives!
the cry that spills
from lips,
that bursts
into a song

a joyous chorus
peals the air
rises to meet
the Light of the World
– the risen Lord!