

RDSMITHS NEWSLETTER

16.3

August, 2016

Welcome to the August winter edition of the Wordsmiths' newsletter for 2016.

We should never doubt the lasting power and comfort of words. A friend recently lost her brother-in-law. He died prematurely and as her family and his, live half a world apart, she wanted to do something to help celebrate his life.

My friend had known this man as a poet all his adult life. A former literature teacher, his love of words was legendary. When it came to poetry writing, he was prolific. His poems could be funny and whimsical, or poignant and reflective. He was perceptive of the human condition and his poetry often reflected the vagaries of people and society.

My friend discovered that most of this man's work could be found on an internet poetry website. She sought permission from his family, downloaded all she could find and began to compile his work into a book.

Before long, she had nearly 100 pages; 100 pages of this man's words, his feelings, his humour and his messages of peace and comfort to others. Some heartfelt words from an uncle formed the perfect back cover blurb; his family provided information for 'About the Author'; my friend keyed everything into the computer and her husband (the man's brother) proofed the manuscript.

The book is now in print. The family is still grieving, but anxiously awaiting copies.

The postscript to this story is that after a couple of early knockbacks from publishers, this man sincerely believed his poetry was not good enough for publication. But it was! And now, thanks to my friend, his family has a lasting legacy...a legacy that could so easily have been lost forever.

If only this man knew.....I like to think he does.

Leigh Hay.

PAST MEETINGS

At the May meeting, **Cathy Altmann** facilitated a workshop on poetry and the unconscious. Cathy suggested that we don't need to make sense of poetry (or even know where a poem is going). She suggested playing with words and working on a subliminal level. The group was invited to select six words at random and incorporate these into a poem (to the music of a cello). Those participating were delighted with the results.

At the June meeting, **Peter White** led the group on a theme of Winter. Peter shared poetry from Walter de la Mare (*Winter*), Catherine Mansfield (*Wintersong*), John Claire (*The Winter Spring*) and Matsuo Basho (several *Haikus*).

In July, **Caroline Vimpani** introduced us to Parallelism in Proverbs and Psalms of the Old Testament. In the OT, much is lost in translation, particularly as regards the poetry in Proverbs and Psalms. Parallelism means the same thought/idea remains, but brings in a new concept within the lines, even though the grammatical structure is still the same.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Unless otherwise notified, all meetings for 2016 will be held at 8 Woodhouse Rd, Doncaster East, from 2-5 pm.

Here is a roster of poets to lead the monthly meeting, and also share afternoon tea duty. If you cannot make it on the date shown, please organise with another member of Wordsmiths to take your place. Note that in **November**, **Cameron Semmens** will lead us in a Poetry Workshop.

Date	Leader	Afternoon tea duty
August 13	Maree S	Don, Cecily, Sunni
Sept 10	Don	Jean, Maree S, Cath
Oct 8	Cath	Janette, David, Greg
Nov 12	Cameron	Rebecca, Joan, Peter
Dec 10	Bron	Everyone

FROM THE TREASURER

A reminder that membership payments of \$30.00 for the year 1 January 2016 -31 December 2016 are now due. Payment in cash preferred, correct money if possible to Maree Silver (Treasurer), or if paying by cheque, make the cheque out to Poetica Christi Press.

MEMBER NEWS

On Sunday 5 June, 12 people attended a poetry reading at **Jean Sietzema-Dickson's** home in Box Hill North. It was a most enjoyable afternoon, and readings were complemented by musical interludes by Susan Pierotti. Some poets read their own work, while others read from Shakespeare, Les Murray, Ron Pretty, Emily Dickinson and Geoffrey Dutton. Janette Fernando and Cathy Altmann read from *Patches of Godlight* and *Circumnavigation* respectively, their most recent publications. Any future dates for poetry readings at Jean's home will be included in this newsletter.

Congratulations to **Don Helmore** on his forthcoming 90th birthday!

Leigh Hay has written the libretto for *When the Bugle Calls*, a choral piece for chorus and soloists. The music has been composed by a young Australia composer, Nicholas Buc. *When the Bugle Calls* commemorates the battles of the Somme in WWI and also Long Tan in Vietnam.

In a concert titled 'A Call to Peace', Heidelberg Choral Society & orchestra will be performing *When the Bugle Calls* as well as *The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace* (by Karl Jenkins) on Saturday August 20, at the Melbourne Recital Centre @ 7.30pm.

To book: www.melbournerecital.com.au or 9699 3333

Graeme Turner has been involved in the creation of a new online journal called SNAP, which is an independent online voice for people who have a disability, a mental illness or who are deaf. It is owned and directed by members of this community. SNAP is a quality

literary journal publishing a diverse range of creative works.

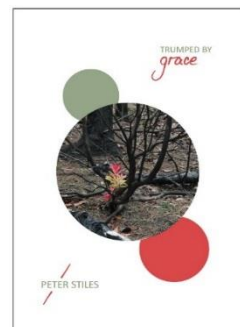
What is important to SNAP?

- * People speaking in their own voices.
 - * Giving those whose voices are seldom heard the opportunity to be heard by the broader community.
 - * People raising & exploring the issues that are important to them.
 - * Providing an insight into the lives of people who identify as belonging to this community.
 - * Raising awareness of the achievements of people within this community.
 - * Publishing quality literary works from a range of genres and on a variety of topics, not just disability, mental illness or deafness.
- *SNAP pays for the works it publishes. SNAP will be launched officially on August 19th at the State Library of Victoria at 6 pm.

For more details on SNAP contact:

snapwriters@gmail.com.au

POETICA CHRISTI PRESS NEWS



Trampled by Grace, by Peter Stiles, and published by Poetica Christi Press, has been

shortlisted for the Australian Christian Book of the Year Awards. Congratulations Peter!

Copies of **Trampled by Grace** can be purchased from Koorong, <https://www.koorong.com> or by emailing poetica@iprimus.com.au or from our website www.poeticachristi.org.au

We have a few more books in the wings which will hopefully be out by Christmas. They are by **Leigh Hay** (*Cosmo flies into Christmas*), **Joy Chellew** (*In search of Wisdom*) and **Letizia da Rosa** (*My Rainforest Window*).

DI-VERSE-CITY

A new friendly poetry venue in **Surrey Hills**,

2.30-4.30pm, First Sunday of the month. Rear courtyard, Watts Cooking, 147 Union Rd. Surrey Hills. (5 min walk from Surrey Hills Station, parking at Station) Come early for meals & drinks, order at counter (cafe licensed)
Entry: \$5, \$3 (unwaged) We look forward to meeting & hearing you. **Enquiries:** Fran: 0405 765 075

Sunday September 4th: Open Mic, **Feature: Anna Fern** “a unique, blended style of performance – part-music, part-sound, part-poetry, part-joy”

DADIRRI LABYRINTH REFLECTION DAYS 2016

27th August: Every day a new adventure

“Let us see what we can do with our imaginations. Let us try to think like children-full of daydreams, looking at life with continual expectancy and an ever-renewed sense of wonder.

Old persons’ thoughts get into frames...bad habits, prejudices, and meaningless traditions should be cast off to allow pure, flowing, vital ideas to flow through our souls. Ask God to give you beautiful dreams and greater visions. And above all, expect life to be beautiful.”
Glenn Clark, Windows of Heaven, p66.

24th September: Laughter and playfulness

“Even in the nonhuman kingdom, play is part of the creational mandate. Diane Ackerman says, “The more an animal needs to learn in order to survive, the more it needs to play. “ Our capacity to adapt requires us to learn the past and then unhinge it to open up the possibility of a new future. The core of all play is linking what is known (past) to what is yet to be created (future) with the freedom to risk, to fail, to recreate.” Dan Allender, Sabbath, p85.
“I, God am your playmate. I will lead the child in you in wonderful ways, for I have chosen you.” Mechtilde of Magdeburg, quoted in *Rivers in the Desert*, p390 (ed Rowland Croucher)

Location: 60 Bass Meadows Blvd, St Andrews Beach 3941.

Lunch: Please bring food to share; Morning and Afternoon tea will be provided.

Cost: \$10 [pension \$5]

Booking: please register by the previous

Thursday evening: Contact Bronwyn Pryor, Tel. 5988 5257; email robbron@pryor.org.au
<http://dadirri.pryor.org.au>

COMPETITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Lane Cove Literary Awards are open with a poetry prize of \$1,500. Entry form :
<http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Community/Library/Pages/LaneCoveLiteraryAward.aspx>
Closing date : 24/8/2016

Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize

Accepting poetry (single or suite) 80 lines, Entry Fee \$20. Closing Date 2/9/2016.
https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0695/3129/files/GHPP_Entry_Form_2016.pdf?11668177574617416454

Toolangi CJ Dennis Poetry Competition

No set theme, 80 lines, Entry Fee \$10 + \$3 in unused stamps. Entry Form :
<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0ByfvwGN8lemJWmNyNUd2aFFsXOU&usp=sharing>
Closing Date : 7/9/2016.

FAWNS Poetry Themes Competition 2016

Theme of Nature, 60 lines in length.
Entry fee : \$10. Closing Date : 30/9/2016
<https://sites.google.com/site/fawnorthshorer/egional/competitions>
For more information, email :
fawnorthshore@gmail.com

DIARY OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 13th, 2-5pm :

Meeting of Wordsmiths at 8 Woodhouse Road, Doncaster East.

Saturday, September 10th, 2-5 pm:

Meeting of Wordsmiths at 8 Woodhouse Road, Doncaster East.

Saturday, October 8th, 2-5 pm:

Meeting of Wordsmiths at 8 Woodhouse Road, Doncaster East.

Saturday, November 12th, 2-5 pm:

POETRY WORKSHOP with Cameron Semmens at Wordsmiths meeting 8 Woodhouse Rd, Doncaster East.



POETS' CORNER

Amazing

I cross a continent today
from east to west
at thirty thousand feet
through a sea of cloud
then coming through
dream-blue all around
air cloud sea land –
stretched map-like beneath.

I cross a continent today
from east to west
in one giant leap
for me a feat
for those who fly for me
all in a day's work.

© Catherine m. Barnard

Thou Shalt Not Pull the Wool Over Mine Eyes

trapped in line
willingly

arms up to ears
to hear
constant bleat of audio guide
...this room was fashioned...
...that room was designed...

no time to wait
the next flock cometh

we pause briefly to view
that which others deem significant
shuffled in the same
direction

headed for the shearing shed
of endless kitsch gifts

we are all like sheep

© Peter White

Processing

I built a wall
with no gaps,
no spaces in between.

Solid space of lives and words
intersecting,
connected and entwined.

Separate one,
pull the others loose.

I built a wall,
quite by accident –
not by design.

Inside me.

I built a wall.
It neither keeps things out
nor keeps them in,
but remembers
what I really don't want to forget.

I built a wall, or is it a cairn?
A monument of remembrance,
of people, a place, a time
unique –

and short.

© Bron Williams

Promise

Winter cold whitens paddocks,
feelings of gloom invade minds
look for escape. Hopeful eyes
gaze towards the horizon,
see a palm tree shape, a beach
where surf rolls, waves curve to shore.

Look again. Those waves are clouds
creating an illusion
of country warm with promise,
life in another season.

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