



Friendly Street News

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<http://friendlystreetpoets.org.au>

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Friendly Street radio update

The Friendly Street committee has negotiated with Radio Adelaide for the broadcasting of our own community access programme - a regular magazine show featuring poetry and interviews with poets. The first programme is scheduled for July.

In order to train a team of presenters, Friendly Street is enrolling one or two of our members every six months in the broadcasting training course run by Radio Adelaide. Maggie Emmet completed the course last year. Currently, Ivan "Avalanche" Rehorek and myself (Nigel Dey) are enrolled. There shall be calls every six months for poets to train up until we have a sufficiently large team. Commitment to Friendly Street will be one of the criteria used to select volunteers.

The course runs for two months and covers various aspects of radio broadcasting, familiarisation with all the departments in the studio building, the art of being a programme presenter, and the technical skill required to operate a myriad of buttons, knobs, switches and levers, mastery of which is essential for the smooth production of a radio show.

Ivan and I are still at a beginning stage in the course. I am feeling apprehensive about the last category I mentioned in my itemisation of the curriculum. Not having a technical mind, and not being a very practical person, I have a history of uncomfortable relationships with machines. The trainer assures us that it is all a matter of practice. At this stage, it feels as if a hundred hours of practice is required before I am ready to go to air.

Nigel.

Welcome

Welcome, to the 18 new members who joined us at the last meeting! It was nice to get some really positive feedback and speak with you.

Deb

Best of Friends

After holding more than 300 readings and publishing over 70 books, it's time for a fresh look at the great record of Friendly Street and its role in Australian poetry.

The long-awaited update on the history of Friendly Street will be launched on Sunday 2nd of March in the West Tent at Writers' Week. Peter Rose, editor of the *Australian Book Review*, will usher *Best of Friends: the first thirty years of the Friendly Street Poets* into the world in the now traditional Friendly Street book launches function during the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Editors Steve Evans and Kate Deller-Evans say that this terrific new work updates the account of the first fifteen years presented in *Tuesday Night Live* (Kroll and Westburg, 1993), and contains anecdotes and information about the ups and downs of the organisation, both at the public readings and behind the scenes.

Combined with this lively history and analysis of the sometimes tumultuous life of the organisation, is a selection of wonderful poems from the first thirty annual anthologies of poetry read at Friendly Street.

See you at the launch!

Guest Reader

In March, we will be presenting David Adès reading from his book: *Mapping The World*.

This wonderful book of poetry is published as part of Friendly Street's Single Poet Series. It will be launched at Writers' Week during the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

David is a master wordsmith with wide range of poetic skills and a mature, humane and insightful vision. Every page will make you stop and read again. This is restrained, carefully crafted, evocative poetry; its lines and images will lodge in your mind and perhaps, stir you to re-consider your own mapping.



The Japanese Poetry Seminar M.L. Emmett

On Saturday 16th of February, Haiku Oz SA representative and adult educator, Martina Taeker conducted a highly successful seminar for Friendly Street Poets, on Japanese Poetry Forms. Her focus was on Haiku; Haiku Sequence and Haiku Journey ~ Haibun.

Martina is clearly a well-informed, knowledgeable teacher who fields question easily, never finding it too much trouble to explain the point again. Her confidence must surely come not only from her degree and post graduate studies, but also from living and working in Japan, speaking the language, and learning to understand and write Japanese characters.

Her skilled and thorough approach is punctuated by practical close work with individual participants. The helpful words of encouragement, coupled with the reinforcement of smiles, means that most participants came away with a sense of achievement and a feeling of confidence. As one gentleman said, 'Martina is truly inspiring.'

The afternoon was pleasantly interrupted by a scrumptious afternoon tea including a homemade cake from Belinda Broughton and lots of iced fruit and green teas - ideal for that rather hot day - though we were as cool as cucumbers in the SAWC board room.

Martina explained in detail why Haiku is so much more than the 5 / 7 / 5 syllabic poem described in the good old reliable Princeton Poetics definition. You might like to ask some of the members who attended to tell you some of the secrets.

She also kindly and respectfully used Dawn Colsey's winning Haibun as an excellent example of the form. This gave us an opportunity to celebrate and congratulate the amazing achievements of one of our members. Well done Dawn!

Dawn's winning Haibun entry is feature to the right, it won the Kaji Aso Studio "Remembrance" Poetry Competition in Boston Massachusetts.

A different path from Basho's *Narrow Road*

Longing for peace and calm after such a busy month, I must escape from telephone, email, meetings. Goolwa draws me: quiet country town, extensive ocean beach. At night distant lights will twinkle along the coast. Monday morning dawns, a bright day of holiday sunshine. I pack the car...

Journeying...
I drive through jacaranda air
seeking stillness

The hilltop house is empty, cold, pristine though beautiful. A burst of yellow gazanias welcomes me. In the rear garden - natives in flower - Geraldton wax offers purple, and eremophila a paler mauve. In a vase these flowers give life to the solid wood of the family table. With dusk I begin to relax into the serenity of a sunset-painted sky. Darkness gathers. At night the storm breaks...

battering winds...
the house turbulent
my thoughts whirl

Can a dwelling less than five years old, even in a raging gale, be so clamorous? The gentleness of sleep is inhabited by clattering, banging, flapping. Footsteps on the stairs? The ghost of architect, builder, painter? For two nights, two days, wind and rain lash. At last the wildness ceases. Sun warms. Birds sing...

alone
high above the wide bay...
my loneliness becomes solitude



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Government of South Australia
Arts SA

Bilney Soldiers On!



Friendly Street personality Bruce Bilney had everyone singing along after handing out lollies and hymn sheets at the last meeting (see below). No doubt we'll be hearing more from Bruce and his *Breeze in the Blue Gums* saga in the months to come. I, for one, am looking forward to it.

Battle Hymn of the Faunal Feral-Fighting Union [F.F.F.U]

Our eyes have seen the gory crimes of Feral Cat and Fox,
And *InHuman* Beings, *fricasseeing* Wallabies in woks;
Now we stand with Plato Platypus! We've all pulled up our socks!
Our Union makes us strong!

To join our Faunal Feral-Fighting Union isn't hard;
You don't need to pay a Union Fee nor tote a Union Card;
Just help us Guard the Native Fauna that we need to guard!
Our Union makes us strong!

Chorus:

Glory, Glory Hallelujah!
You don't want to lose us native Creatures, do ya?
SAVE US if we really matter to ya!
Our Union makes us strong!

We can't fight those Carp or Cane-Toads with a bullet from a gun:
There's many dreadful Ferals that have Natives on the run:
But – *A Cat left free to roam is Public Enemy Number one!*
Keep Cats where they belong!

If you say your Cat's killed nothing Native since its infant youth
Just don't smile! – Your're on trial, for *Denial of the Truth!*
If it roams free, that reverses all the onus of the proof –
And we say you are WRONG!

You can't change a raging Tiger to a manner meed and mild:
We must just get rid of Ferals to save Natives in the wild.
So – Children! – Hear our cries for help!
And Parents! – Head your child!
Please join us in this song!
Come on and sing along!
NOW!

Chorus:

Repeat Chorus again, slowly, triumphantly, with *POWER!*

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Beach Burial

Some one had intended
to mend
this beach-stranded boat

Hauled high on the shingle
well above
the high tide

uselessly tethered
by moss-bearded ropes
to a wind-worried tree

Abandoned
except by rats
and the occasional scuttling crab

Honeyed shine of the wood
bleached grey
and dulled with dry rot

Tongue and groove jointed
still hold firm
the ribbed torso

Made by a craftsman long dead
with skills lost
in a past world

Hard plastic and fibre glass hulls
stamped and pressed into
existence
industrial strength lines
in fast factories

Cheap run-about for townie
fishermen
will never die a beach death of
dignity
mourned by passing poets.

© M.L.Emmett



Love and Loss in Catullus

Friendly St. Poets Inc. offers the opportunity to learn about the Roman poet Catullus in a Seminar conducted by Classical Studies Senior Lecturer from the University of Adelaide, Dr Jacqueline R. Clark. She will guide us in exploring the themes of love and loss in the poetry of Catullus.

A delicious afternoon tea will be provided. There are only 20 places available for this seminar so book early to avoid disappointment.

This seminars will be held at:

SA Writers' Centre, Meeting Room
187 Rundle St (East) Adelaide.
Saturday 10th of May.
2pm - 4.30pm

Full Cost: \$25 per person or \$20 concession
(See website for more details)

Love and Loss in Catullus: the First Personal Poet at Rome

The poet Catullus, who lived his brief life (84-54 B.C.) during the last phase of the Roman Republic, brought about a revolution in Roman poetic thought.

Instead of composing poetry on themes of national or scientific importance he turned to other subjects, focusing much of his attention upon his own loves and hates and his relationships with his friends and enemies.

In particular he is renowned for composing a series of poems about his love affair with a woman he calls 'Lesbia': this is perhaps the first time in the ancient world that an affair with a woman was charted in a related series of poems.

The ways in which Catullus uses poetry to convey his distress and come to terms with the gradual death of this relationship can be compared with how he uses his poetry to deal with the untimely death of his only brother.

In both sets of poems we can trace how a brilliant poet and a very flawed human being struggles to find answers to the imperfections and impermanence of human relationships.

Jacqueline Clarke

Promising Poets

The Friendly St Poets Board has begun our new program to encourage the development of SA poets from within the Friendly St membership. The outgoing editors of Reader 32, Gaetano Aiello & Maggie Emmett identified six poets who showed great promise in their work, yet could benefit by receiving advice, skills development and encouragement in a mentoring process.

Each Promising Poet has identified someone from the Friendly St community that they would like to work with and become their Mentor. See below:

Adam Klimkiewicz	Mentor: Kalicharan Nigel Dey
Dane Neilson	Mentor: Jude Aquilina
Andrew Ellery	Mentor: Geoff Hastwell
Sarah Wauchope	Mentor: Tess Driver
Debra Sainato-Zuks	Mentor: John Malone
David Bailes	Mentor: Graham Rowlands

Each Mentor agrees to meet their assigned Promising Poet, at a mutually agreed time, for six hours over the course of 2008. The mentor encourages the development of the poet's work; develops and refines their editing skills; advises them on publishing opportunities and helps to bring their work reach a publishable standard.

The Promising Poet agrees to meet with the Mentor and take full advantage of the mentoring opportunity to develop their skills. We hope it will be a positive experience for both parties. At the end of the year we will ask them to fill out a feedback sheet to enable us to assess how effective the process has been. Depending on those results the Board will decide whether to continue with the program.

