



Friendly Street News

Volume 2, Issue 3

<http://friendlystreetpoets.org.au>

March 2008

Nova Prize

Gaetano Aiello and Maggie Emmett, as editors of Rewired Reader 32, will be announcing the winner of the Nova Prize at the April 1st Friendly St Meeting. For those of you unfamiliar with the Nova prize, it is awarded each year by the editors to the best poem in the Reader submitted by a previously unpublished poet.

So, all those first time reader-published poets make sure you're there (and there are 21 of you!) You are the only poets eligible to win this lucrative and cherished prize.

For those of you who have not bought your copy of Rewired Reader 32 it will be available at our bookshop during the break. So why not buy a copy and get the Nova Prize winner to give you their autograph!

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)

Volunteers? Raphael Sabu

Due to a change in circumstances I am no longer able to continue with the Friendly Street News, or my role as Website Administrator. The board is looking for a volunteer, or volunteers, to take over these duties.

The newsletter is compiled each month in consultation with the Board and Friendly Street members. Most of the content is sourced from contributors but writing some copy will be necessary.

I have templates created in Adobe InDesign CS2 and CS3, or can make a template in Microsoft Word/Publisher 2000 or 2007 if that is easier.

The duties of Website Administrator would suit a computer savvy individual with broadband and an interest in the activities of Friendly Street and its members. Full training will be provided.

Anyone interested in taking on either or both of these duties should contact:

poetry@friendlystreetpoets.org.au

Cheers

Raphael

NP 13 Launch

Dear Members,

You are all invited to our Friendly Street launch of the New Poets 13. Bring your family, friends and colleagues too.

So come along, enjoy great poets, great wine, food and company on Friday 4th April 2008 at SAWC 5.30pm - 8pm. It's absolutely free. Please consider buying a book and getting it signed by the three poets on the night.

Kindest regards

Your Publishing Editor- Maggie



Behind the mic with Peter Goers

I had been invited by Peter Goers and his very efficient producer, Regan Pitt, to appear on their show to talk about Friendly St. Peter Goers had been selected as the Satura Prize judge and for the first time in its history the prize was going to be announced live on-air.

So, on Monday, 3 March 2008, I arrived at the ABC Studios at Collinswood, on Main North East Road and waited in the foyer to go up to the studio. I was pleasantly confronted by huge advertising head shots of two familiar faces, both work at the ABC. One was an old broadcasting colleague from Radio 5 UV, Julia Lester, who does an ABC FM Fine Music program and our Poetica favourite and Friendly Street veteran, Mike Ladd.

After a ride in the lift, I was put in another foyer with a Fringe performer to wait my turn to go into the re-modernised gigantic studios. For those of you who become involved in our Radio Adelaide project and come into the comfortable studios on North Terrace you will fully understand the next comparison. Radio Adelaide Studios compared to ABC's broadcast studio and producer booth is like comparing a camping holiday in a tent to a five star hotel overlooking Lake Geneva.

When I went in I gave Peter a copy of all three books and a thank you note from Friendly Street for his services as a Judge. He was kind enough to remember his reading of a part of my poem 'Seasons of Terror' at the Remembering London event at Bonython Hall and we chatted pleasantly until the song ended. I was nervous but that was quickly forgotten as we got down to business. Goers may look and sound casual, but he is a consummate broadcaster who has a great skill in being able to make interviewees feel relaxed just chatting about whatever the topic is. The listener enjoys an intimate, often funny experience with Goers who seems to make the actual distances of transmission disappear—as listeners we are in the room with Goers and his guests.

After a brief introduction about Friendly Street, Rewired and the poems he liked in the volume, we refocussed on Satura. I explained about the Satura Prize, its past judges and winners; then, Peter made his announcement of the 2008 winner. Rory Harris had already been notified, so he could come on-air and read his poem light.

I thought that would be that, but luckily there was a breaking news story about the now found, though previously lost, tourists at Waterfall Gully. After the story, I was asked more questions which allowed me to talk about both New Poets 13, mentioning each poet individually and talking about their work; and our Single Poet: David Adès. I then invited the audience to Friendly Street where David was scheduled as guest reader. We even managed to briefly mention of the History book, Best of Friends.

Then it was all over, a handshake and I was escorted to the foyer again. The next day Peter rang me to say he had stayed up half the night reading his New Poets 13 we'd given him and he simply had to interview Janine Baker. He loved the whole book but her evocations of country Australian places delighted.

Regan Pitt and I had already made arrangements for Steve Evans to go on the program a week later, so now we had to arrange the third Friendly Street Spot on the Peter Goers program...

M.L.Emmett

The SATURA PRIZE was first presented in 1996, as a result of a bequest made to Friendly Street by Chief Justice John Bray. It was instituted a year after his death and named after one of his poetry collections.

John Bray was a long standing and well respected member of the Friendly St Poets' community and each year we remember him in presenting this \$200 prize.



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Published for: Friendly Street Poets Inc.

Contributors: M.L.Emmett, Bruce Bilney, Jacqueline Clarke, Raph.



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Arts SA



An interview with Bruce Bilney Raphael Sabu

Raph: Bruce, tell us a bit about your poetry.

Bruce: Well, I don't so much claim to write poetry. I write rhyming verse, but I write good rhyming verse. It's got lots of rhyme and lots of wordplay... but it's got a fire in its belly. In the big Breeze in the Blue Gums which is one of my two huge, sort of, epic kind of poems. Ah, the Breeze in the Blue Gums is centred on saving Australian native marsupials, native mammals, native animals generally. It's aimed at—you should think of it being read with children in anything from year three to year eight or nine—this'll be intelligent kids who actually want to do something about their environment. And ah, if you put yourself in the kids place in a classroom and the kids have of their own volition picked out certain particular species that they want to identify with, and to maybe read for aloud, then it becomes a kind of pantomime. [I'm] waiting for Friendly Street people to pick up on just how really big it is, and how wide it sets its sights in terms of actually creating generational change for the sake of Australian fauna.

Raph: So, how does it feel to be limited to only four minutes each time when you're trying to express a greater message?

Bruce: (laughs) Four minutes is four letters as far as I'm concerned... Breeze in the Blue Gums is more than two and a half hours at the speed I'm actually speaking now... I'm kind of proud of it, but I wrote it in a spirit of, what's it called, not enlightenment, um... I mean inspiration. I was facing major surgery in 2000... and I got into this huge thing of rhyming verse, and sort of cracked the rhyming barrier... the animals just came, and it all just happened, and I've lagged along behind trying to put into verse... what, I sort of felt, was vouch-safed me. I tell you what, I've only met a few other people who claim to have been truly inspired, and it's exactly what they say—it's not of you, or by you, it's through you somehow. It's as though you are just a medium... You can't be proud of your own dreams, the dreams come from somewhere else, they don't come because we try to think them through, they just come. And Breeze in the Blue



Gums is a lot like that... it took just five weeks.

Raph: So, where is it all going? Is there an end to Breeze in the Blue Gums?

Bruce: Breeze in the Blue Gums is a mobeiuss strip—it has no beginning and it has no end; but it sort of does have a beginning and it does have an end, except that they join up

with one another, and then they become eternal. I'm very moved by it...

Raph: Are you happy with the reception you've received at Friendly Street?

Bruce: Yeah, I know they love it... I felt that I overdid it this time a bit...

Raph: So, where is it going in the future? Where is Blue Gums going?

Bruce: Find me a publisher. Find me someone who wants to turn it into an audio book...

Raph: So, what is coming up next month for you?

Bruce: Oh, I don't know. I think I'll have to pull my head in.

Raph: Another instalment?

Bruce: Oh, yeah. Episode twelve. But no sweeties this time... I'm hoping that they'll sort of get the message and some people will come up who would really like to read it, who would put in the time to learn their parts. That's what Brucey the Bilby wants people... to do, learn their parts and lift their arts—cop a Bilby burst.

Raph: Is that where you're headed—to get the kids involved in learning about the environment?

Bruce: Yes, indeed. In the end I want it to be an Australia wide—I was a teacher and I can't get off the karma of being a teacher... Ancient Joe Mopoke teaches all the fauna what they have to do is teach the people.

Raph: Any words for the kids who are interested in the environment?

Bruce: Check out <http://www.ozzigami.com.au>, my website... The kids'll love it and the teachers'll love it too.

