

Announcements New Poets 20 & Single Poet 2019 Winners & Commended

It was a great turnout for the August Meeting of Friendly Street Poets at the Box Factory on Monday night, 5th August, 2019 with 60 people attending. Some traveled quite far for the occasion, including poets from Whyalla, Saddleworth, Kapunda and Victor Harbor. Many regulars came for the regular monthly Open Mic readings, but all were there to hear the announcements of the New Poets 20 and Single Poet 2019 Competition Winners and Commended.

Judge for the New Poets 20, Steve Evans chose the manuscripts, *Wolf Ghost* by Alys Jackson, *Finding Their Voices* by Sharon Foulkes & *Shifting Viewpoints* by Julia Wakefield to be published in the next book in this New Poets series. Steve commended the manuscripts, *Sustenance* by Isabel Oliver and *Smile In White* by Inez Marrasso.

Judge for the Single Poet 2019, David Ades chose the manuscript, *A Synonym For Sobriety* by Benjamin Adams to be published in the first book in the Single Poet series for 5 years. David commended the manuscripts, *The Laureate Poems* by Suzanne Verrall and *The Underside Of Bark* by Gaetano Aiello.

Both Judges gave wonderful feedback in their speeches and several poets asked me to pass on their thanks and appreciation to them.

Steve Evans referenced several quotes about poetry by icons from the past which resonated strongly with the audience and his stats on the popularity of arts and culture over sport was greatly appreciated. I think people fail to realise more people attend arts and cultural events than the footy and cricket. Thank you, Steve Evans for reminding us that the pen is indeed mightier than the sword.

David Ades gave great insight into his process for selecting the manuscripts he did. His feedback on the level of professionalism and the little mistakes made by those submitting for the competition, which can mean the difference between becoming a published poet or not, was very constructive and will help those poets not just in future competitions, but with their submissions to publishers.

My congratulations to Ben, Julia, Sharon and Alys for being selected to become the next poets published in these Friendly Street Poets series which have been the first publications for such wonderful poets as Jude Aquilina, John Malone, Jules Leigh Koch and David Ades. May you continue to be as successful as those who have gone before you.

Thank you to David Ades and Steve Evans for judging these competitions. Your feedback will help not just these poets, but any who follow your advice when submitting for competition or publication. Thank you to the Committee of Friendly Street Poets, past and present for helping to resurrect these 2 wonderful opportunities for South Australian poets to see their ambition to become published poets in respected books realised.

Thank you to all who submitted to these competitions. I hope you continue to put pen creatively to paper, read often to audiences and succeed in your future submissions. I think the feedback from these Judges will help you achieve that.

And thank you to all who attended on the night. It was a wonderful Winter's night out in Adelaide.

Nigel Ford, Convenor Friendly Street Poets