

# About the Poets

Poet, screenwriter and novelist **Emily Ballou** was born in the United States and moved to Australia 20 years ago. In 1997, she was awarded the Judith Wright Prize for Poetry for her poem *Enter*. Her first novel *Father Lands* was published by Picador in 2002. She was one of *The Sydney Morning Herald's* Best Young Novelists of 2003. *Aphelion* was published by Picador in 2007. *The Darwin Poems*, a verse-portrait of Charles Darwin, was published by the UWA Press in April, 2009.

**Nicola Bowery's** two well-received poetry collections are *Bloodwood* and *Goatfish*. She lives near Braidwood with Harry Laing and has worked with him for many years in their highly-successful poetry workshops.

**Michael Byrne** was born in Sydney in 1978. He has published two books of poetry with Ginninderra Press: *Estuary at Dusk* (2001) and *Southbound* (2005). *Southbound* won the 2006 ACT Writing and Publishing Award for Poetry. His third collection of poetry, *A Man of Emails*, will be out this year (also from Ginninderra).

**Suzanne Edgar** is a historian, fiction-writer and poet. Her poetry collection *The Painted Lady* was published in 2006. It was shortlisted for the ACT Book of the Year and the ACT Writing and Publishing awards. In 2007 it sold out and was re-printed. She is working on another collection.

**Fenella Edwards** is a performance poet and rap artist.

**Amelia Fielden** is a professional Japanese translator and an enthusiastic writer of tanka poetry in English. To date she has published 14 volumes of translated Japanese tanka, and five collections of her own poems, the most recent of which is *Baubles, Bangles & Beads*. In *Two Minds*, 2008, is her book of responsive tanka written with Kathy Kituai.

**John Foulcher** has been writing and publishing poetry for thirty years. He has published eight books of poetry. He is Head of Senior School at Burgmann Anglican School in Canberra. John Foulcher's books include; *Light Pressure*, *Pictures from the War*, *Paperweight*, *New and Selected Poems*, *The Honeymoon Snaps*, *Convertible*, *The Learning Curve* and *What on Earth Possessed You: Poems 1983-2008* (Halstead Press, 2008). In 2010 he will be writer in residence for six months at the Keesing Studio in Paris.

**Alan Gould** is the author of twenty books that have won many literary awards. His seventh novel, *The Lakewoman*, (2009) has been well-received by reviewers, his twelfth volume of poems, *Folk Tunes*, (Salt Publishing), will be launched at this festival. His *Selected Poems 1973-2003*, won the Grace Leven Award for 2006.

**Susan Hampton** is a poet and freelance editor who lives in Lyneham, Canberra. She has written six books of poems. Her last book 'The Kindly Ones', won the Judith Wright Award. Her next book 'News of the Insect World' is due from Five Islands Press in November 2009. Some of her poems are available at [www.foxediting.com.au](http://www.foxediting.com.au)

**Paul Hetherington** is the author of eight volumes of poetry, most recently the verse novel *Blood and Old Belief* (2003) and *It feels like disbelief* (2007). His poetry awards include a 2002 Chief Minister's ACT Creative Arts Fellowship. He edited and introduced the final three volumes of the four-volume edition of the diaries of the artist Donald Friend.

**Terry Jaensch** is an Australian poet/actor and monologist based in Melbourne. His first book of poetry, *Buoy* (Five Islands Press) was highly commended in the Anne Elder Award by the Fellowship of Australian Writers. He has worked as a Writer-in-Community, Artist-in-Residence, Dramaturge and Artistic Director of the 2005 Melbourne Emerging Writers' Festival. He is widely published in journals (hardcopy and on-line), both locally and internationally. His work has been broadcast on radio and in 2004 he was commissioned to write and record 15 monologues based on his childhood in a Ballarat orphanage for "Life Matters" ABC Radio National. This piece has since been reworked and performed for theatre as "Orphan's Own Project." He has a background in acting, having studied at the Stella Adler Conservatory and Herbert Berghof Studio in New York. In 2004/05 he was the recipient of an Asialink residency in Singapore.

**Kylie Johnson** has published three books of her poetry: *Distant Shoes*, *forty-eight minus one* and *the ivory birds*. The poetry book launches also coincided with solo exhibitions of her painting and collage work. In 1996 Kylie set up her business *paper boat press*, in its early stages creating a boutique greeting card range featuring her own whimsical one or two line poems. This has now grown to include ceramic ornaments, ceramic jewellery, original illustrations and functional ceramic vessels. Something always brings her back to words though. A hopeless romantic, Kylie has again put her own words on her work, but this time through her own hand-built organic shaped pieces. Kylie's work in all its varied forms sells in over 50 stores and gallery stores in Australia and New Zealand. In 2008 Kylie's first commercially produced book of poetry, *counts me the stars*, was published by Murdoch Books Australia. Kylie has just signed her second book deal with Murdoch Books and a follow up collection is due for release in March 2009.

**S. K. Kelen** is a Canberra-based poet who often teaches poetry and creative writing at the University of Canberra. His most recent books are *Goddess of Mercy* (Brandl & Schlesinger, 2002), and *Earthly Delights* (Pandanus Books, 2006).

Poet, diarist and writing teacher, **Kathy Kituai** published four poetry collections *green-shut green*, *The lace-Maker*, *Stragglng into Winter*, and *In two Minds* (co-author Amelia Fielden), a CD, *The Heart Takes Wing*, won *Fuji Award*, *Eucalypt Tea-towel Tanka Prize*, gained a position of Excellent (sic) in the 6<sup>th</sup> *International Tanka Competition (Japan)*, an Honorable Mention in both the *Saigyo Award (USA)* and *Haiku Mainichi Prize (Japan)* published three anthologies and a children's picture book. Kathy is published in Japan, USA, England, Canada and Australia.

**Paul Kooperman** is a prolific screenwriter, playwright, author and Acting Director of the Australian Poetry Centre. Paul has worked as a writer for *Home and Away* and in the writing departments for shows such as *The Wedge*, *Wicked Science 2* and *StreetSmartz* in Perth. He lectures in screenwriting at the JMC Academy in South Melbourne and has recently had two books published by Insight Publications on the subject of "how to write films". In addition to screenwriting, Paul has been commissioned to undertake many other writing assignments including a set of three books entitled *Plays Across the Curriculum* by Macmillan Education (2008) and two musicals, one of which is currently being cast for production later this year. He currently produces a poetry podcast with RRR radio station and initiated (and runs) the Cafe Poet Program via the Australian Poetry Centre which places poets in cafes all over Australia.

**Harry Laing** is a poet and comic performer. His first book of poetry, *Thirst*, was published all too long ago and a second collection is almost ready for the press. Harry has also written and performed five one-man comedy shows, the latest of which *Away With The Birds*. Two series of his quirky country tales, *Stories from the edge of the forest* and *Tales of a Tree Changer* were broadcast on Radio National's Bush Telegraph. Harry is a passionate about switching people onto poetry and together with Nicola Bowery runs PoetryAlive courses. These encourage a total immersion in poetry for a weekend or longer and take place in a country setting. He lives on 115 acres near Braidwood, beside Monga Forest.

**Jeanine Leane** is a Wiradjuri woman from South West NSW. She has three unpublished manuscripts which were short listed for the David Unaipon award in 2006, 2007, and 2008. In 2009 she was short listed for a collection of poetry in the PressPress Chapbook Award.

**Paul Magee's** most recent book, *Cube Root of Book* (John Leonard Press 2006), was shortlisted for the 2008 John Bray Poetry Award in the Adelaide Festival Of Arts. Paul is a senior lecturer in creative reading at the University of Canberra. He is the president of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia, and has abiding interests in idleness, boredom, stagnation and revolution.

**Lizz Murphy's** five collections of poetry include the just released chapbook *Walk the Wildly* (RRP \$5 from [www.picaropress.com](http://www.picaropress.com)), *Stop Your Cryin* (Island Press) and *Two Lips Went Shopping* (Spinifex Press). Her other five books include the anthology *Wee Girls: Women Writing from an Irish Perspective* (editor, Spinifex Press) and the social history *The Pearly Griffin*.

**Omar Musa** was runner up in the Australian Poetry Slam in 2007 and won it in 2008. He has rapped with KRS-One and was a featured performer at the October Ubud Readers and Writers Festival. His first EP was titled *Massive*, and his 2<sup>nd</sup> one is due out soon.

**Mark O'Connor** has a number of collections of poetry, and is launching his latest collection, *Pilbara* (John Leonard Press) during the festival.

**Geoff Page** is a Canberra-based poet. His most recent books are *Seriatim* (Salt, UK), *Agnostic Skies* (Five Islands Press) and *60 Classic Australian Poems*.

**Sarah Tiffen** has three books published through Ginninderra Press, on the themes of land, spirituality, and belonging, Australian stories and nature. She was recognised in the Best Of Australian Poetry anthologies last year, and is currently Poet in Residence at Tilleys Café in Lyneham.

**Leon Trainor** has previously published three collections of poetry, *Memory's Apprentice* (1977), *Benediction* (1979) and *Free Song* (1999). His novel *Livio* was published in 1988.

