

YEAR-END REVIEW - [Live Poets at Don Bank](#) 2018.

This was Live Poets' 27th year at Don Bank

And in February we had a sell-out! Under the umbrella: 'Life is a Village' - BARVARA HUSH and EMBER FLAME (I've got a crazy idea!) provided 'views of Manhattan' - in the 1970s and now respectively. After supper, AMY BODASSIAN from Melbourne presented a powerfully vulnerable persona. Her obsessive-compulsive disorder episode was so graphic we were looking for the therapist.

In March the Japanese flavor (focusing on the Cherry Blossom Festival particularly) extended to patrons being handed pieces of bark bearing messages to a secret lover. DAVID GILBEY from Wagga read poems based on his often zany experience teaching English in Japan. PIP SMITH discussed her novel; 'Half-Wild' where a 1930s lady twice married - as a man.

In April PHILIP RADMALL read from his book 'Earthworks' and JILL CARTER HANSEN sang a capella, read her prize winning stories and performed poetry for children backed by a display of her artwork. This being Anzac night we presented a special: 'War is Over – If You Want It.'

In May guitarist and singer BECK FIELDING was back with a rousing performance and our annual Monologue Challenge was won by a first timer Michael Aldred. A series of people read 'Voices from the Middle of Nowhere' from people facing dangerous situations.

June saw TONY SCANLON entertain us with poems from his recent Selected and his original book: 'Rain at Gunn Point.' There was a tribute to Dulcie Meddows a Live Poets Original. 'Three Faces of Blue' – a 4-hander theatrepiece centred around the music of Miles Davis' 'Kind of Blue', a discussion on how it was recorded and the monologue of an insomniac persuaded finally by jazz to report an attack on an acquaintance. Thanks to: ANDREW VIAL, GRAHAM CAMERON and WIL ROACH.

July was our 'Homage to Darlo' our theme night for the year which featured a lively cabaret component from Vashti Hughes. George Clark and Janet Eades performed parts of Kenneth Slessor's 'Darlinghurst Nights'; there were testimonials from famous writers' experiences of Sydney's Montmartre, an interview with TAP Gallery doyenne Lesley Dimmick and Charles Freyberg presented his poetry – principally based around characters from that area. Patrons were asked to utter the Razor Gang era password: 'Mum's in' to gain entry.

August saw the launch of Afghan-born ASSAD CINA ALEEM's bi-lingual book of poetry 'Glass and Stone' by Emeritus Professor ELIZABERTH WEBBY. FADEEL KAYAT played flute and the 'assante' lay-harp in an engaging prelude. PAULA HARRIS from NZ read frankly from 'Sex as a Solution' 'I decided to go to a Book Launch (not!)' and 'I Spend a Lot of Time in Bed – that's what you Do When You're Depressed.' Various readers took on the 'Wicked Words of (Oscar) Wilde.

September featured the 'Fixin' to Die rag (US Politics, 1968)'. Bee and Allan presented songs from the era ('Love Me I'm a Liberal' 'Bringing Them Home' 'We shall overcome' 'We gotta Get outa this Place' etc) augmented by the convenor's graphic commentary on events. There was a Special called: 'Verses for Prague' - how the city has influenced writers (the surrealist Antonin Nezval particularly).

Crows Nest painter and poet ED WILSON returned in October to tell us about his mad great uncle who claimed lineage from the Duke of Wellington. It was the occasion also of the 2019 Short Fiction Cup - won for the second time by JILL CARTER HANSEN with 'Harry's Questionable Eating Habits.' In an occasional series there were readings and a discussion about a Classic from the Past: Dorothy Hewett's 'Rapunzel in Suburbia' (1975).

Our last evening of the year on November 28th saw the equivalent of the entire rainfall for November fall on a single day. Train services were cut and poetry guest JENNIFER MAIDEN coming in from Penrith almost turned back when her husband David could barely see the road in front of his car! We had originally intended the DUCK RIVER BAND with their melodic refrains on a variety of instruments to do the second part of their set in the courtyard over supper but that had to be scrapped. Ms Maiden took the stage after the Parra group to read an engaging selection from her new Collected Poems (Quemar Press). It presents a cinematic sweep over Jennifer's career featuring work from 1974 to now. The convenor read poems from Rupert Brooke and Wilfred Owen to mark the Centenary celebration of the Armistice before readers from the floor did their last presentations. The UnDarwin Awards were announced and the Open Section Poem of The Year: Charles Freyberg's multi-part '2014'.

We look forward to a year of new adventures starting in February 2019.

The ideas just keep coming and we have some corkers in store. Please feel free to offer feedback on our presentations.

Compliments of the festive season to one and all!