



Eucalypt eNews March 2017

Submissions to Issue 22 close 31 March!

Email up to 6 tanka to
editor.eucalypt@gmail.com

WILD ONES

A Writing Challenge for Eucalypt Poets

It has been a dramatic summer in Australia. Many of us enjoyed family holidays, beach outings and outdoor adventures in record heat. In these days of rest and recreation, chances are we may have had an unexpected encounter with wild animals, large or small.

Face-time with a frog, dive with a dolphin or spar with a spider . . . the choice is yours.

The challenge is to relate your experience in a tanka that demonstrates the essential relationship of humans with local fauna in our world.

Please send your tanka to editor.eucalypt@gmail.com with the subject line **WILD ONES [your name here]**.

A small photo may be included if you have one. Poems will be published in the next e-news.

THE SCRIBBLE AWARDS

The Scribble Awards recognise two outstanding poems from each issue of *Eucalypt*, selected and appraised by winners of the Awards in the previous issue.

And the winners from issue 21 are . . .

unpacking her bag
he tucks her nightdress
under the pillow —
after sixty years side by side
where to put his grief?

— Michelle Brock

each day
we gather by your bedside
outside, a flight of ibis
passes over, one falling back
on slow-beating wings

— Max Ryan

The full appraisals can be read on the Eucalypt website maintained by founding editor Beverley George
<http://www.eucalypt.info/E-awards.html>

Congratulations to Michelle and Max who will be our award judges for issue 22.



At Editorial Handover, Anthology Launch & Readings from Eucalypt Issue 21



More than a decade ago, Beverley George introduced me to tanka at a local writer's workshop. I was immediately hooked! I think that had a lot to do with Beverley's gentle way of encouraging and teaching. Not only did she offer examples of classic poems and share the modern conventions for writing tanka poetry in English, she also showed the way to publication in the various journals around the world.

I was excited to learn about her plans for an Australian tanka journal, and listened with interest as she described a journal that would be as beautiful to hold in the hand as to read. When the first issue of *Eucalypt: a tanka journal* was published, it was a joy to be included among the contributing poets. Her imaginative seed had sprouted.

Beverley's generous approach to teaching and mentoring Australian tanka poets has created a wonderful poetry community. Being a *Eucalypt* poet is more than just submitting to a journal – connections and collaborations have resulted which have enhanced the creative lives of many people around the country and overseas. The small seedling grew into a healthy sapling.

How lucky am I? Beverley George has entrusted me with the role of continuing editor at Australia's only journal dedicated to the tanka poetry form, *Eucalypt: a tanka journal*. No longer a sapling, in my mind the journal is a tall, straight, young tree with many shimmering leaves on spreading branches.

I hope to continue her work in publishing a tanka journal that is Australian-based but international in reach, true to the spirit of tanka, and an experience of beauty in every sense.

I also hope that Beverley, released from her editor's hat, will be one of the contributing poets to *Eucalypt* in 2017. I trust that you, too, will continue with us, on this immensely satisfying tanka journey.

Takuboku, the Japanese tanka poet, once said that "tanka is a diary of the emotional life of the poet."¹ And in saying this, I think he has given us a clue about the appeal of tanka writing for us in the 21st century. We are all engaged in the process of creating meaning in our lives. We want to examine our experience, find some purpose in our daily living, and leave a little of our story to share with others as a witness to our days. The tanka form, with the inherent pivot, or turn, that invites personal response to a natural image, is ideal for this. Little wonder we are devoted to these short songs that record our lives so vividly.

Just north of our holiday house on the mid-north coast there is reported to be the tallest tree known in NSW. Although I have yet to journey to see it, I have learned that it is a 'Flooded' Gum (*Eucalyptus Grandis*) located about 100 metres east of Stoney Creek Road. The tree is 84.3 metres high and measures 2.7 metres through at breast height. It is estimated to be about 400 years old and would have been quite a large tree even when Captain Cook sailed up the East Coast. The 'Flooded' gum is a smooth barked tree that regenerates freely when disturbed by storm, fire, or logging.²

I hope that *Eucalypt: a tanka journal* will be just as resilient as that *Eucalyptus Grandis*, able to withstand increases in printing and postage costs, the rise of online poetry journals, and handovers between consecutive editors. In my mind's eye this journal is a tall, straight tree growing up to the sky, a marker of our lives for poets, families and friends to enjoy for many years to come.

Julie Thorndyke

¹ Sanford Goldstein

Wilson, Robert D. "An Interview with Sanford Goldstein" in *Simply Haiku: A Quarterly Journal of Japanese Short Form Poetry* Autumn 2009, vol 7 no 3 <http://simplyhaiku.com/SHv7n3/features/Goldstein.html> accessed 1/12/16

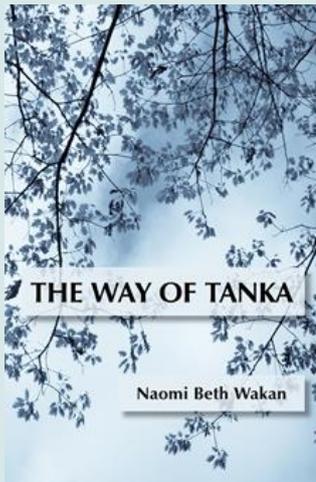
² <http://www.about-australia.com/attractions/grandis-the-tallest-tree-in-nsw/>

Read a report of the event here <https://australianhaikusociety.org/2017/02/22/eucalypt-anthology-book-launch-and-new-editor/>



BOOK NOTES

Publications we have heard about . . .



The Way of Tanka by Naomi Beth Wakan

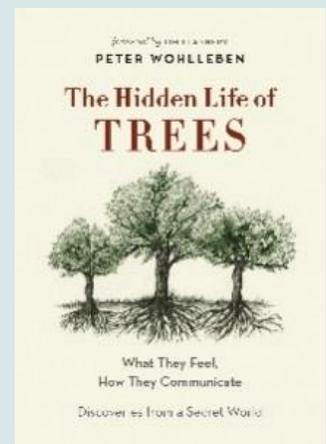
The Way of Tanka is an approachable yet comprehensive examination of the Japanese form of poetry known as tanka. Wakan weaves her story of personal self-transformation as she moved from the more disciplined writing of haiku to the more metaphorical and philosophical writing of tanka.

https://www.shantiarts.co/uploads/files/WAKAN_WAY.html

The Hidden Life of Trees

By Peter Wohlleben

Are trees social beings? In this international bestseller, forester and author Peter Wohlleben convincingly makes the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. He draws on ground-breaking scientific discoveries to describe how trees are like human families: tree parents live together with their children, communicate with them, support them as they grow, share nutrients with those who are sick or struggling, and even warn each other of impending dangers. After you have read *The Hidden Life of Trees*, a walk in the woods will never be the same again.



A Temple Bell Sounds

108 tanka
from the first twenty-one issues of
Eucalypt: a tanka journal
selected by the journal's founding editor
Beverley George



Order your copy today!

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For bank transfer within Australia, for all enquiries
and for payment via PayPal contact:
Beverley George: beverleygeorge@idx.com.au

A Temple Bell Sounds

108 tanka from the first twenty-one issues of *Eucalypt: a tanka journal*
selected by the journal's founding editor Beverley George
Graphic Design and Photography: Matthew George Design

Purchase information here:

<http://www.eucalypt.info/templebell/index.html>

Classic Poem

*if these sleeves
of my black robe
were only wider
I'd shelter all the people
in this up-and-down world* Ryōkan

From: Burton Watson, trans. *Ryōkan: Zen Monk-Poet of Japan*.
New York, N.Y. Columbia University Press, 1977, page 50.

ON THE WEB

Titbits and other interesting reads . . .

Is the human brain hardwired to appreciate poetry?

<http://journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01859/full>

How can poems transform the world? A chat with poet Jane Hirshfield.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/how-can-poems-transform-the-world-a-chat-with-poet-jane-hirshfield/2015/05/13/8cbdeed4-f4e4-11e4-b2f3-af5479e6bbdd_story.html?platform=hootsuite

Colour those leaves eucalypt green! Colouring Page

<http://ruthdevos.com/draw-eucalyptus-colouring-page/>

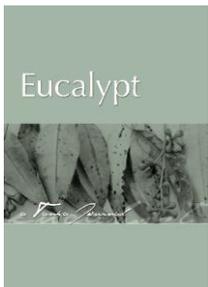
Gum Leaf craft

<http://www.frankie.com.au/blogs/craft/5206-frankie-exclusive-diy-an-introduction-to-eco-dyeing>

What We Can Learn from Trees

They inspire us, comfort us, and remind us how life moves on

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/03/wisdom-of-trees/>



SUBMISSION CLOSING DATES:

MARCH 31
SEPTEMBER 30

Please email poems to
editor.eucalypt@gmail.com

With the subject line:
Submission – [your surname here]

Australian subscriptions still only \$30 AUD.
\$40 for NZ and Japan subscribers;
\$50 AUD for other international subscribers.
PayPal is available.

ABOUT EUCALYPT

Eucalypt is the first Australian journal devoted to this ancient Japanese poetry genre.

Japanese waka (now called tanka) are five-segmented poems. In English, they are usually written in five lines. Often they address profound human emotions, such as love or mourning, but can also be used to record everyday experience.

The genre is 1300 years old, but is surprisingly relevant to the way we think and feel today.

Eucalypt is a print magazine which showcases contemporary tanka poetry written in the English language, and publishes only those poems its editors consider to be of the highest standard.

Its objectives are to offer wider publication opportunities to tanka poets and to make more people aware of the delights of reading and writing tanka.

There are two issues per year, in May and in November

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